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The proceedings of the Governor of the Mississippi Territory as Superintendant of Indian affairs.

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No 1. To Henry Dearborn Esqr. Secretary of War. } Washington January 28th 1803

Sir

I enclose you copies of reports made to me on the 21st and 26th Instant by Silas Dinsmore Agent for the Choctaw Indians, and of a letter from me to him, of this date.

Mr. Dinsmoor States, that John Pitchylynn the Interpreter, will serve no Longer for the compensation at present allowed him.— Pitchylinn is well acquainted with the Choctaw Language, possesses the confidence of the chiefs, and has heretofore been useful in the Indian department; the loss of his services at the commencement of Mr. Dinsmoor's agency might prove injurious, therefore think it would be proper to authorise a temporary increase of Compensation.

There is a valuable Tract of Land on the Waters of Tombigbee, and convenient to the settlements in that quarter, to which the Creeks have lately set up a claim; but the right is unquestionably in the Choctaws, who I am well informed will dispose of it on moderate Terms, as a

Negociation

Negociation were authorised, there is but little doubt but an advantageous purchase might be made.

I am &c.

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

No. 3. To Silas Dinsmoor Esqr. Agent to the Choctaws

Near Natchez January 28th 1803.

Sir

Your communications of the 21. and 26. Instant have been duly received.

The reception you met with from the Kings, Chiefs and Warriors of the Choctaw Nation, evinces their present impression to be favourable towards you, and persuade myself, that your conduct as an agent, will soon attach their confidence and esteem. To reconcile the Jarring interests which at this time distract the Choctaw councils, will probably, be a difficult task, but an event of this kind, would so greatly conduce to the success of your agency, that you should be zealous & uniform in your exertions to effect it. —

The cultivation of harmony and friendship between the United States and the Choctaw Indians and the encouragement of civilization, by introducing among them the arts of husbandry and domestic Manufactories, will

constitute

constitute your primary cares. To attain these desira
objects are extensive field is opened, for the exercise
of Talents, Industry, perseverance and benevolenc
and I trust you will acquire the honor of being a
principal agent, in removing the dormant facu
-ties of the Choctaws, and in reclaiming this poor
and humble people from a state of Savage Ign
rance.

That genual intercourse with the Spaniards
which you complain of, but more particularly the
traffic trade which is at present carried on with the
Choctaws from Mobile, and the lake contiguous to
Orleans, will I am well aware prove great obstacles
to their reform and improvement.

These inconveniences cannot be remedied
by any act of mine, but I will transmit your report
to the Secretary of War, and it will no doubt, receiv
due attention from the Executive.

It is in contemplation by the President, to place a
Factory, some where on the Tombigbee for the accomm
-odation of the Choctaws, and the establishment will
shortly be made, provided the Spaniards, who have
assured the exclusive navigation of the Mobile,
should not oppose the passage of the Goods. — If
the Factory should be established in that quarter
it will divert the Indian trade from Orleans,
Pensacola, and Mobile and be a great means of
pulling down any foreign influence, which may
hereafter have been erected.

I shall furnish you with some blank
Licences, which you will dispose of in the
manner you have suggested, it is however
understood

understood, that you will attentively watch those trader
and prevent abuses: — upon looking over the Items of
expence in your agency, I see no charges which can well
be dispenced with, economy must be observed in all your
disbursements, but the necessary aid to such Indians,
who are desireous of benefitting their situation by persu
of Agriculture and domestic Manufactories, it is the
wish of the Government to afford; it will therefore be
expected, that you retain in service, the mechanicks
already employed, and in order that you may ensure
a supply of Wheels, I would advise that a Wheel mak
be engaged by the month or year. —

The articles mentioned in your communication
of the 26th Instant, are so extravigantly high in Natch
that I think it advisable to dispence with them, until
the can be sent on from the Northward, or procured
from the Factory on its establishment.

The question as to Pitchylinn's salary, must be re
=fered to the Secretary of War; Pitchylinn has long been
employed in the Indian department, and I believe
has discharged his duty with fidelity. I should be
sorry to loose his services at this particular period,
and I wish you would prevail on him to act as an
Interpreter, until you hear further from the Secretary
of War or myself, on the subject of his salary.

You will write me frequently and state particular
all occurrences of Moment: you will watch the mov
=ments of all the Spaniards, or other Foreigners who may

Visit the Nation and advise me thereof. I shall expect that your next quarterly return will furnish me with general information on the following particulars

1st An account of the natural History of the Choctaw country and the particular manners and customs of the inhabitants.

2nd The number of Warriors, State of their Arms, and amount of population generally.

3d Their Government and Laws.

4th The progress of civilization, the State of agriculture and Manufactories.

5th The names and private and public characters of the most influential Men.

With a sincere wish for the usefulness of your Agency.——

I am Sir &c

(Signed, Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esqr. Secretary of War } Near Natchez January 30th 1803.

Sir,

I have the honor to enclose you, a copy of a report made to me, on the 23d Instant, by Samuel Mitchell, Agent for the Chickasaws, and also of a letter from myself to him of this date. Upon perusing Mr Mitchels report, you will discover, that several arrangements for the benefit of his Agency, are Solicited, which cannot be made without directions from you.

I think it would be advisable to make this

agent

Agent a perdiem allowance, in lieu of rations, and to furnish with a supply of Medicine.—

Mr. Mitchell evidences a disposition to discharge with fidelity, the duties of his agency, and if his conduct should correspond with his promises, of which I shall be the better enabled to Judge in six or seven Weeks, I shall recommend a small increase of his Salary.

I am &c

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

No. 4 To Samuel Mitchell Esqr. Agent to the Chickasaws } Near Natchez January 30. 1803

Sir,

Your communication of the 23.d January together with its enclosures have been duly received.

The progress of civilization among the Chickasaws, prove that their general reform and improvement may be effected, and ought to stimulate you to further exertion.

The expences of your agency as far as they are detailed, have no appearance of extravagance, and I trust it will continue to be your care to keep them within the bounds of a prudent economy.

The question as to a suitable allowance to the woman for teaching some Indian Girls the art of Weaving and for the board of Mechanicks, may I presume, be safely committed to your discretion; you will therefore make the best terms you can, and advise me thereof.—

The supply of Medicine which you solicit; the desire which you have expressed, to be authorised to the

the future, to draw bills upon the Secretary of War or myself, and for a per diem allowance in lieu of rations, will be submitted for the decision of the Secretary of War and any arrangements which he may think proper to make for your accommodation, will be agreeable to me.

You will write me frequently and state particularly every occurrence of moment.— In your next quarterly report, in addition to a detailed account of the expences of your agency, I shall expect such remarks as your own observations will enable you make, upon the following particulars.——

1st an account of the natural History of the Chickasaw country, and the particular manner of the Inhabitants

2nd The number of Warriors, State of their arms and amount of population generally.

3d Their Government Laws and customs.

4th The progress of civilization, the state of agriculture and Manufactories.

5th The private and publick characters of the most influential Men.

The President of the United States, having consented, that the son of Major Colbert should be educated to the Northward, I must request you to send him to Washington, early in the Spring.— Perhaps it may be best to forward him to Colo. Meigs at South West point, and this gentleman could from thence send him on to the City of Washington, by some careful person.

You will furnish the boy with a Horse and a suit of

Clothes and give him a letter to the Secretary.

You will be pleased to repair with all convenient dispatch to your post.

With Sentiments &c,

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Silas Dinsmoor Esq.r
Agent to the Choctaws

Town of Washington
28th February 1803

Sir,

I enclose you an Invoice of sundry packages of Goods, being the Choctaw annuity for the year 1802. which will be delivered to you on application to Major Claiborn of Natchez, at whose store, this annuity has for some time been deposited.

The Military Agent Lieutenant Wilkinson will furnish you with the means of transporting these Goods by the route of New Orleans and Mobile, to such point on the Tombigbee as you may point out, and I request that you will proceed on your passage with all convenient dispatch.

In distributing the annuity some of the most influential Chiefs will expect to be noticed, and it is proper to bestow on them some mark of attention, but it is my wish that you should be most liberal to the old and helpless; in disposing of the Implements of husbandry you will assist those particularly who have manifested a disposition to cultivate the soil; It will attend to encourage them in the pursuits of agriculture and may excite others to follow their example; but in the disposition of the Goods generally, you will exercise a great share of discretion,

and acting as you do, unde all the advantages of local Information, I am sure you will make a Just and Judicious distribution. —

When the Factory under the direction of Mr Chambers shall be established, I authorise you to purchase for the use of the Choctaw Nation thirty pair of cotton Cards and your receipt for the same, will be a sufficient Voucher for me to give a Bill for the cost thereof in favour of Mr Chambers upon the Secretary of War. —

So far as may relate to the Historical information of the Choctaw Country required of me in my former instructions, it seems advisable you that should not hurry yourself in the detail, but occationally to touch upon the subject in your quarterly reports in such manner as your personal observations and leisure may authorise.

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Humble Servt.
(Signed, William C. C. Claiborne

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6. To Joseph Chambers Esqr.
United States Factor
Fort St. Stephens

Town of Washington
2nd March 1803

Sir,

You will proceed on Saturday next to Fort Adams and from thence to your place of destination.

The Military Agent will furnish means of transportation for yourself and the Goods for the Choctaw Factory, to Fort St Stephens on the River Tombigbee where the Factory

for the present will be established, Genl. Wilkinson informed me that he would direct the necessary repairs to be made to the buildings, and upon your application, would cause you to be furnished with a Small Guard;— I presume a Sergeant and 12 Men would be sufficient.— You will employ an interpreter for the service of the Factory; Mr Dinsmoor can name a Suitable character;— You may allow the Interpreter 300 hundred Dollars per Annum and his Board. Should you find an assistant Store Keeper necessary, you will engage one on the best terms in your power and advise me thereof. You will also feel yourself at liberty to employ from time to time such Labourers, as the good of the Factory may require, being a due regard to economy.—

When the Indians visit the Factory, you will take Special care, that they are treated with civility, & you will do every thing in your power to prevent their depredating upon the property of the citizens.

I enclose for your information an extract of a letter from the Secretary of War to me, dated February 23d. 1802.

accept my best Wishes
I am Sir very respectfully
your Humble Servt.
William C. C. Claiborne

(Signed,

To Silas Dinsmoor Esqr.
Agent to the Choctaws
Mount Dexter

Town of Washington 4th March 18

Sir,

The Indian Commissioners on their return to

Nation paid me a visit this morning. One of them whose name I have forgotten, Solicited of me two drawing Knives, one handsaw, and Two small planes to be used in making Gun stocks.

Will you procure these Articles from the Factory on account of the publick, and deliver them to the Indian Commissioner on his application.

I am Sir very respectfully
your Obt. Servt.
William C.C. Claiborne

(Signed)

To his Excellency William C.C. Claiborne
Governor of the Mississippi Territory
Washington

Fort Adams
February 24. 1803

Sir,

Being about to close the business of the boundary line with the Choctaw Commissioners, the remind me of three Sets of Blacksmiths Tools, one to the Nation by the United States, under a Stipulation of the Treaty of Fort Adams, and in part payment for the concession which we have Just limited; I am persuaded it is the intention of the Executive they should receive those articles, but as I have no orders on the Subject, and being informed Mr Chambers the Factor has precisely that quantity of Tools on his Invoice, I am induced to think they were intended to fulfil the Stipulation in question, and therefore must request that you may be pleased to direct the delivery of those Tools to the agent of the Choctaws for the use of the Nation, and in discharge of this claim against the United States.

I am Sir your Obt Servt.
(Signed) James Wilkinson

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No. 4

To General Wilkinson
Fort Adams

Town of Washington
March 3d 1803

Sir,

Your letter of the 24th February was duly received

Mr. Chambers upon perusing the Invoice finds only two sets of Blacksmiths Tools, and neither him or myself have any particular Instructions as to their disposition.—

Supposing however the Executive are desireous that the Stipulations in the Treaty should be speedily complied with, I have requested Mr Chambers to deliver the Tools to Mr. Dinsmoors Order, and to charge the same to the United States.

Whither Mr. Chambers will make this delivery at Fort Adams, must rest with himself to decide. He does not consider himself as having any controul over the Goods, until their arrival at Fort St Stephens, and I do not wish to give any order, which might be improper for him to execute.

I should Suppose, that it would be equally convenient to the Indians to receive the Black Smiths Tools at Fort St Stephens, and perhaps it may be best to adopt this course.

I am Sir very respectfully your
most Obedient

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To General Wilkinson
Fort Adams

Town of Washington March 4th 180[illegible]

Sir,

I have named to Mr. Chambers, that you would direct the necessary repairs to be made, to

the buildings at Fort M Stephens and that you would cause him to be furnished with a small guard for the Post.

The Secretary of War, in a letter to me of the 11th. of September says, "If necessary the Military post on the Mobile can furnish a guards for the Store".

Captain Gregg has this day commenced racing the Block House at Fort Dearborn, the name given to the new post, If a Subaltern Officer with thirty men should remain at Fort Dearborn, I think the works might be completed in the course of the ensuing Summer.

I am Sir with great respect
Your most Obt Servt.
(Signed, William C.C. Claiborne

N.B. If it meets with General Wilkinsons approbation relative to the Subalterns command I must ask leave to express a desire that Lieutenant Hopkins, whom I deem to be a young Officer of merit, may be designated for this post.
(Signed, W.C.C.

To Henry Dearborn Esquire
Secretary of War
Near Natchez
March 5th. 1803.

Sir,

Mr. Dinsmoor, the Agent for the Choctaws, has set out for the Nation, and carries with him, the Choctaw Annuity for the year 1802;— enclosed is a copy of the instructions given him on his departure.—

I am &c
(Signed, Wm. C.C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esqr.
Secretary of War
Near Natchez
5th. March 1803

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Sir,

I enclose for your perusal, a letter from General Wilkinson to me, relative to three Sets of Blacksmiths Tools for the Choctaws, together with a copy of my Answer. —

I am &c

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

No. 12 To Henry Dearborn Esqr. Secretary of War } Near Natchez 14th March 1803

Sir,

In consequence of General Wilkinson having made arrangements with the Governor at New Orleans, for the passage of the Goods of the United States by the way of Mobile — We have determined to establish the Factory at Fort St Stephens on the Tombigbee, and Mr. Chambers has taken his departure for that place. During the time Mr. Chambers was necessarily detained in this District, he was busily employed in my Office, which afforded me an Opportunity to become acquainted with his merits, and I can with certainty pronounce him a young man of talents, prudence, and industry. —

Enclosed is a copy of the instructions I gave to the Factor on his departure. —

I am &c

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

No. 13 To Silas Dinsmoor Esquire Agent to the Choctaws } Town of Washington 17th March 1803

Sir,

You will be pleased to grant Licences to su

white Setters in the Choctaw Country to trade with the Indians, as you may suppose entitled to copies taking from each trader, Bond and Security in conformity to the Indian intercourse Laws.

Mr. Richard Smith Bryan, a Citizen of Washington County, wishes to establish a cotton Gin some where in the Nation, for the accommodation of the Choctaws, and is also desireous of obtaining permission to trade. If the Indians have no objections to Mr. Bryan's, Settlement, and you suppose the establishment may be useful, you may accede thereto and give Mr. Bryan a Licence &c

I am &c

Signed, William C. C. Claiborne

To Samuel Mitchell Esquire } Near Natchez
Agent to the Chickasaws } March 23. 1803

Sir,

Your letters of the 3.d and 9.th Instant have been duly received.

In your publick conferences with the King and chiefs of the Nation, you will give assurances of the friendly disposition of the President, towards the Chickasaws, and of his great Solicitude for their welfare and happiness; upon the Subject of the factory you will inform the King and Chiefs that it is established for the comfort and benefit of their Nation, and that their supply of goods, will for the future be obtained upon ~~lower~~ terms than they have heretofore been accustomed to; you will advert also to the great convenience which has resulted to the Cherokees, from the Factory at Telico, and request that the one at the Bluffs, may at least be tried before it is condemned. These

trading houses, are established by the United States as a means "of attaching and securing the friendship and confidence of the natives," and you will use your best endeavours, to render the establishment at the Bluffs pleasing to the Chickasaws.

With respect to the annuity you must not consent to the disposition contemplated; it would be unjust in itself in opposition to the interest of the United States. The annuity is intended for the general good of the nation, but more particularly for the benefit of the old and the helpless. If the nation is willing to assume and pay the debts of individuals, the might perhaps be enabled to do so, by a sale of some of their Lands to the United States, it is not my wish that you should urge the sale of lands, but you may sound some of the Chiefs upon this point and advise me the result. — All existing differences between the Chickasaws and Creeks you will endeavour to have amicably adjusted. ——

If you have consulted the Secretary at War, as to the propriety of Issuing Rations to the Indians when the annuity is distributed, it may be advisable to await his answer

I am &c

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esquire
Secretary of War.

Near Natchez
March 24th 1804

Sir,

I enclose you two letters, which I have recently received from the Chickasaw Agent together with a copy of a letter which I addressed to him on Yesterday

on yesterday. The traders in the Nation who Interest is effected by the Factory at the Bluffs, have rendered the Indians somewhat discontented with that establishment, but I am persuaded their discontent will be easily removed.

I am Sir, respectfully Your Obl. Servt.

(Signed) William C.C. Claiborne

To Wm. C.C. Claiborne } Fort Adams 13th April 1803.
Governor &c. Washington }

Sir,

I have received the following information from a confidential source in New Orleans, Viz, "Mingo Poos "coos has been here, and thro the Interpreter has been invi "ted, to bring his people to meet their old friends the "French, the Indians are daily comeing in, and the "Interpreter has gone over the Lake (Pontchartraine) to "provide for their accommodation". — I beg leave to suggest to your Excellency, the expediency of mingling with this assembly, two or three confidential unsuspected Characters, White or Red, who understand the Choctaw Language, in order to ascertain the views of our destined neighbours; in season to counteract them if possible. —

The Adjutant General of Victor's army with 100 Grenadiers, accompanied Laussat and this last is making contracts for Army Supplies, and dealing out good talks to the people below. —

With much respect &c

(Signed) I. Wilkinson

+ Barthe Donnelet

To General Wilkinson
Fort Adams

April 15th 1803

Sir

I thank you for the information contained in your letter of the 13th Instant.

The conduct of the Choctaws has of late has assumed an unfriendly aspect; general outrages have recently been committed on the Frontiers, accompanied with some unpleasant menaces. —

The assembling of the Indians at N. Orleans may not have been done with hostile intentions but I must confess, it has to me a Suspicious appearance and I shall take immediate measures to ascertain the particular object of the meeting.

The late Northern Mail but nothing interesting.

With Respect

(Signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

1803 April 15th

The Governor having received information that a Choctaw Indian had died of wounds lately received in an affray at Natchez, and that a person was arrested and confined in Jail, charged with the Murder of the said Indian, issued a proclamation (by and with the advice and consent of two of the Legislative council) for causing a Special Court of Oyer and Terminer for the trial of Offenders, and directed that the Court should set at Natchez on the 20th of the present month. —

To Samuel Mitchell
Agent for the Chickasaws

Town of Washington
April 29th 1803.

Sir,

Your letter of the 13th Instant was duly received. The observations you made at the general meeting of the Nation receive my entire approbation, and I pursuade myself, will have the desired effect.—

I have understood, that the Cherokees pretend to claim the Duck River Land, but upon what ground I know not.— Will you make enquires upon this point, and inform me the result.— I have for myself supposed, that the Chickasaws, claim to the Landson Duck River. was of long and good standing.

When it shall appear to be the general wish of the Nation to sell any part of their Lands, you will sound the Chiefs as to the quantity, conditions of Sale &c, and advise me the particulars.

In relation to the enquiry made of you by the King and Chiefs as to their Cotton, you may give it as your opinion that if the Factor at the Bluffs should be in cash when the Cotton should be at market, he no doubt, would give part money for that production which is every where so very useful and saleable— But if cash should be wanting, and all Store Keepers are sometimes without it, goods alone can be given in exchange.

Your attention to Mr. Patterson were very proper, and will be considered a sufficient apology for the delay of your quarterly report— As an officer of the United States, and man of humanity— Mr. Patterson was entitled to your assistance and I am happy, that it has been in your power to administer to him relief.——

You will be pleased to say to the King and Chiefs of the Chickasaw Nation, that as the path to cumberland had long been a White and peaceable path, my heart was grieved, when I heard, that blood was Spilt thereon;— That the friendship of the Chickasaws for the United States and their fidelity to treaties, have made their Nation very dear to me and that I hope they will use their influence with their younger brothers the Choctaws to restrain their bad men from committing any further mischief; upon the weary and defenceless traveller— A Choctaw Indian was lately killed in an affray at Natchez a person was arrested confined Indicted and tried for the Murder, but after the fullest and fairest investigation was acquitted by a Jury of his country.—

It appeared upon the trial, that a party of Indians being very drunk at Natchez Landing, became quarrelsome and a fight ensued between the Boatmen and the Indians, in the course of which several of the latter were wounded and one mortally.— The affray took place in the night, and it being impossible to prove who had given the mortal blow, the person charged was acquitted; since agreeably to our laws no man can Suffer unless his guilt be fully established.

I have been thus particular, in order that you may be enabled to state the circumstances to the Chickasaws if it should appear advisable.

You no doubt will shortly hear from the Secretary of War upon the subject of issuing provisions to Indians while receiving their annuity.

I am Sir with respect your Ob.t Serv.t

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Henry Dearborn Esquire Secretary of War

Near Natchez March 4th 1803.

Sir,

The persons who were arrested for the murder of the Indian (mentioned in my last letter) have been tried and after a fair and full investigation acquitted.

I have made to some Choctaws who are in our settlements, the fullest explanation upon this subject, with better success, than I had anticipated, for their resentment is much abated. — The immediate connections of the deceased, have notified me of their intention to pay me a visit, & pending the audience which I will receive, I shall endeavour to allay their angry passions, point out the cruel absurdities of the Law of retaliation, and prevent if possible the shedding of innocent Blood. — no recent depredations have been committed on the Frontiers, and the general conduct of the Choctaws is becoming less exceptionable than when I last addressed you. —

I enclose for your perusal, a copy of a letter, which I have lately received from the agent for the Chickasaws, and of my answer thereto. — It would seem from Mr Mitchels communication, that a purchase of the Chickasaw claim to the Lands on Duck River, might probably be effected. — with respect to these Lands, I will observe, that they are fertile, & would in my opinion be a valuable acquisition. Many Military and other Surveys made under the authority of North Carolina, are now within the Chickasaw Claim, and if Duck river was the Boundary, a source of discontent among some of the citizens of North Carolina, and of other States, would be removed. — I have also understood that the Cherokees have set up a claim to

the Duck River Lands, but I believe without good foundation.— If the Government should deem it an object to make a purchase from the Chickasaws, I think it might be effected without much difficulty.—

Mr. Mitchells conduct as an Agent, has of late been, very correct, & I think we may with some certainty count upon a continuance of his faithful attention.—

He still thinks his compensation insufficient; I am myself of opinion, that his present salary, (800 dollars per annum) is inadequate to a comfortable support, & would recommend an increase of not more than 50, nor less than 25 p. Cent.—

I believe it has been the Uniform custom, to furnish the Indians with rations, while receiving their annuity at the Bluffs, and I do not think it would well be dispenced with.— I find the Agent is unwilling to attend at the Bluffs to distribute the Annuity, until he knows your opinion as to the supply of rations.—

With great respect &c

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

No. 20 To Silas Dinsmoor Esqr. Agent to the Choctaws } Fort Adams May the 17th 180

Sir

Meeting with a certain and Speedy conveyance to the nation I hasten to make yo a short communicati

you no doubt have heard of the mischief which wa lately done on the Wilderness road by Lewis Vann a Choctaw half breed— you will remonstrate to the Chie against this act of violence, and remind them that

the path to Cumberland has long been white, and the staining it with blood is a violation of a solemn Treaty

Mr. Patterson who was wounded will probably but it will nevertheless be proper to demand of the Chiefs the punishment of Vann for this outrage;— a strong talk from you on this subject may adds to the future Seecurity of the defenceless Traveler— I Know that Vann will urge that his shooting at Patterson was by way of Sattisfaction for his brother Samuel Vann, who he alledges was Killed at Natchez about two years ago— But the truth is, it is not yet ascertained, that Samuel Vann is really ded, his body has never been founds— This man was seen at Natchez about two years ago very drunk and has ever since been missing— Now the probability is that he fell into the river or some creek and in that way came to his death. I deny that he was killed by a white citizen of it had been so I should have heard some acco=unt of his death before this, for murder cannot be kept secret and the Choctaws well know it.—

An unfortunate affair has recently happened at Natchez in an affray between a few drunk Choctaws and some imprudent Boatmen— Three Indians were badly wounded one has died of his wounds the other two have recovered.—

A white man has been arrested, confined, indict=ed and tried for the Murder and after a long and fair trial was acquitted by a Jury of his county— The friends of the deceased have visited me, and appear much dissattisfied— It is probable some innocent

person may fall a victim but I rely on your exertions to prevent so unfortunate an issue— The Choctaw Chiefs may be assured that I shall do every thing in my power to find out the guilty person & to have him punished.

But our Laws will not permit the Shedding of innocent blood, and should you be enabled to impress upon the Choctaw Nation, the cruel absurdity of the Law of retaliation, you will greatly serve the cause of humanity.

I have understood that some principal Chiefs have lately visited New Orleans; will you endeavour to ascertain the general Tenor of the talks they received and advise me thereof.—

I am Sir,

Very respectfully

Your Humble Servt.

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

No. 21 To Ochchummey . . . a Chief of the upper Towns Choctaw Nation } Near Natchez May the 17th 1804

C 1805 93

Friend and Brother,

Your letter of the 27th [redacted] April was duly received. The death of your Warrior gives me great grief, and every thing in my power shall be done to prevent (for the future) the like misfortune — The talk you heard, was in part true; When the runner left Natchez a White man was in Jail, and I had directed my beloved Chiefs to meet at Natchez in six Weeks, to

enquire

enquire into the matter, and to let me know whether the man in Jail was guilty of the murder charged against him or not— my beloved Chiefs did as the were directed and their report to me was "that the white man in Jail did not Spill the blood— Now brother I must tell you, that in consequence of the report of my beloved Chiefs. The man was liberated from the strong House in which he was confined.— For according to our Laws the guilty can alone die— Brother, some of the Choctaws who were here have told me they will never be satisfied, until some white man dies— I have told them I will endeavour to find out the guilty person and have him punnished but that innocent blood cannot be shed by me and I hope no Innocent life will be taken by our friends the Choctaws, Brother. you have heard that some mischief has lately been done on the path to Cumberland, this path has long been White, and I am sorry that it should be stained with blood. But I hope this blood will soon be washed away and the path will never more look red— Brother! when the Choctaws come to Natchez, I do every thing I can to keep Whisky from them, but some of my bad Men will sell liquor to the Indians, and then it is that disputes arise and fights ensue— It was whisky that occationed the late mischief which has given trouble both to you and me— Now Brother I must ask your influence to prevent the shedding of innocent blood.—

If ever I find out the White man who killed your

Warrior

Warrior at Natchez, you may rely upon it, that I will do every thing in my power to have him put to death— I wish you a long and happy life.—

Your friend and Brother
(Signed) William C.C. Claiborne

No. 22 To Henry Dearborn Secretary at War. Near Natchez May the 17th 1804 [1803]*

Sir,

I have been requested by the Chiefs of the Chickasaw Nation, to permit Messrs. Grub & Bright to establish a trading House at the Chickasaw Bluffs.—

It seems those Men had been solicited by the Nation to enter into their trade, and the Bluffs designated as the Site for the Store, and their goods actually purchased previously to the establishment of the United States Factory.—

Believing however that private adventurers may injure the Factory, I have for the present with held a Licence to Grubb & Bright, and must solicit your opinion upon the Subject.—

I am very respectfully
Your Hble Servt.
(Signed) William C.C. Claiborne

To Silas Dinsmoor Esquire Agent for the Choctaws. Near Natchez May 26th 1804 [1803]

Sir,

I have understood that a Mr. Forbes of Pensacola partner in the late House of Panton Leslie & Co. has go

* See doc. 43, Sen. Ex. Vol. 3, Mississippi Territory, May 23, 1803.

into the Choctaw Nation; what the object of his mission may be, whither Mercantile or political I know not but I am informed that his departure was hastened, in consequences of advices from the Governor of Louisiana.

You will endeavour to find out Mr. Forbes's business and acquaint me thereof.—

a person of the name of Chevalier de Villiers is now at Orleans, & is preparing for a Mission to some of the Southern Indians, but to which particular Nation, I am not informed.—

This man was formerly a Spanish Agent among the Creeks, while Mr. Seagroves was the United States Agent for the Creek Nation.—

Villiers will act under French instructions, and may probably take improper liberties with the Indians within our limits— Should this Missionary come among the Choctaws, you will carefully watch his movements and advise me thereof.—

I am Sir very respectfully
Your Most Obt. Servt.
(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Silas Dinsmoor Esquire } Near Natchez
Agent &c, Choctaw Nation } June 3d. 1803.

Sir,

The citizens of this Territory are subjected to great inconvenience by the repeated visits of many of the Choctaw Indians— The Stocks of the inhabitants are killed, their corn fields plundered, and not unfrequently their Houses.——

It is also impossible for me to prevent my bad people from selling liquor to the Indians, and the consequence is that disputes often arise between the White and Red Men and sometimes mischief is done.—

Will you acquaint the Chiefs of these Facts, and solicit them to fall upon some plan to restrain their people from visitting the Settlements in such Numbers

When a Chief or Warrior of known integrity and the friend of the United States wishes to visit Natchez for the purpose of trade, will you inform the Chiefs that it is my wish that his name should thro' you be announced to me.—

I am Dear Sir, very respectfully

Your Hble Servt.

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

No 25 To General James Wilkinson } June 23d 1803.

Sir,

I have this moment received your letter of the 20th Instant. The Choctaw annuity cannot be conveyed by any route so expeditious, certain, and cheap, as by the way of Orleans, and the Mobile,— I am pleased therefore with an opportunity of forwarding the annuity by the same conveyance which you may adopt for the transmittal of the articles distined for the Garrison at Mobile, and sincerely thank you for the accommodation you have offered.—

With respect and esteem

I am Sir, &c

(Signed) W. C. C. Claiborne

To Samuel Mitchece Esquire
Agent &c, Chickasaws

Near Natchez June 2

Sir

Your letter of the 28th Ultimo, together with enclosures are now before me. The talk from Major George Colbert to the Creeks, is replete with good sense; and is a high proof of his knowledge of & attachment to the true interest of the Red people. Will you give my best wishes to the Major;—Tell that I have learned with pleasure, the high rank to which he has attained in the Chickasaw nation, and that I hope his good Council will continue to influence his nation.—

The Murder of Mr White is an unfortunate occ=urrence; Unless some examples can be made, I fear the road to Cumberland will become very inse=cure. I am happy to learn, that the Chickasaws highly disaprove of the conduct of the Creeks and Choctaws to travellers, and I hope they will exert their influence to prevent mischief for the future. As Major Colbert observes the road to Cumberland was freely granted to the United States, and it should remain a clear and white path; The Chickasaws are a virtuous people, honest in private life, and faithful to public Treaties; they are as generous as they are brave, and I therefore rest in confidence, that the defenceless traveller will find in the Chickasaw Land safety & protection.—

The expences of your Agency appear to be within the bounds of a prudent Economy, and will not

not I presume be objected to by the Government.—

The power of Congress to regulate trade and intercourse with Indian Tribes (within the Limits of the U. S.) is unquestionable, and this power has been used in a manner best calculated to promote the welfare and happiness of the Red people.— Under the act of congress, I am authorised to grant Licences to persons to trade with the Chickasaws, and Kings, Chiefs, and Warriors may be assured that I shall endeavour to exercise this authority for their benefit.—

I have consulted the Secretary at War, upon Messrs Grub & Bright's application, but have not yet received an Answer. I am glad you have written the Factor upon the subject, and if he supposes a private establishment will not injure the Factory, I shall be disposed to grant a general Licence.— From the tenor however of your letter, and feeling a great disposition on this occation to conform to the will of the Chickasaw Nation, I will grant to Messrs Grub & Bright (upon their giving the Bonds required by) a licence to establish a trading house at the Bluffs;—

The licence to continue in force for six months only, and if during that period, the establishment is not found to be improper the Licence will be Renewed.

Will you inform me whether Mr Hunt still has a store at the Bluffs.—

I am Sir, &c

(Signed,) Wm C. C. Claiborne

27 To Joseph Chambers Esquire } Near Natchez June 21st 1804
United States Factor ...
for the Chickasaw Nation

Sir,

Yours of the first Instant, with its enclosures have been received. — I will decline giving any opinion upon the points which you have submitted to the Superintendant of Military Stores, being well assured that his advice and decision will be promotive of Interest of the Factory, and highly Satisfactory to you.

The prices which you propose allowing for pelltry, will (no doubt) be esteemed by the Indeans very liberal, and yet a handsome profit may be made thereon.

I flatter myself it will not be in the power of Panton Leslie & Co. to do any Serious Injury to the Factory, and I trust Mr. Monroe will be enabled to remove the difficulties which you anticipate from the present Shackels on the trade of the Mobile. —

It is expected you will keep me regularly advised of the prospects of the Factory, and of whatever else in relation to the Indians which may be interesting to the United States.

I am Sir very respectfully
Yours &c
Wm C. C. Claiborne

(Signed)

To H. Dearborne Esquire } Near Natchez
Secretary of War ... } June 28th 1804.

Sir,

By letters from Messrs Densmoor & Chambers I am informed of the arrival of the former at his post, among the Choctaws, and of the latter at

Fort M. Stephens on the Tombigbee. Mr. Dunmoor has been ill of a pleurecy, but has recovered, and is now in discharge of his duty; he writes that the Choctaws are becomeing attached to agriculture, and the demands for implements of Husbandry Increasing

Mr Chambers had opened his goods and commenced his Sales which promised to be great; he anticipates Some Rivalship from the House of Paton Leslie & Co. and Some difficulties in exporting the Specie to by the route of Mobile; but I flatter myself it will not be in the power of Panton & Co. to do any Serious Injury to the Factory, and that Mr. Monroe will be enabled to secure to the U. S. the free Navigation of the Mobile Waters. ——

Some Indian depredations have been committed on the road leading to Nashville, but they are by no Means as great as has been represented. — In the course of four Months past one person has been killed and two wounded; — The deceased a Mr. [illegible] was Shot by Some creeks, as Satisfaction for a Creek Indian who was Murdered not long Since in Kentucky. Mr. Patterson was Shot and wounded by Levi Vann a Choctaw, with a view to avenge the Loss of his Brother, who was Supposed to have been killed in this Territory about two years ago; and a Mr. Hogan was lately Wounded by a party of Choctaws, who had set out to take a life as compensation for an Indian who

who was killed in Natchez about two Months ago:—
No other Mischief has been done by the Indians in the Wilderness, (unless it be the stealing some Horses) for some Years, and this has proceeded from the rigid execution of the "Lex talionis.

I persuade myself that under Mr. Dinsmoor's, Agency, the Choctaws will advance in civilization, and continue in friendship with the United States.—

The Chickasaws are improveing fast in agriculture and domestic Manufactories;—

Mr. Mitchell the Agent is attentive to his duty.—

I am Sir, respectfully Yours &c

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Silas Dinsmoor . . Agent &c. Choctaw Nation } Town of Washington June the 18th 1804

[18037]

Sir,

Your communication of the 16th Instant is received and I am happy to hear of your safe arrival in the Nation.

The attempts which have recently been made upon the lives of some travellers in the wilderness, seem to be confined to a few disorderly Choctaws, having for pretext, a rigid execution on their part, of the "Lex talionis.— The abhorence of the Chiefs to such conduct, is a pleasing circumstance and it is certainly their duty to discourage for the future similar outrages, for a repetition might increase the Ill blood already afloat and eventualy lead to War.—

The conduct of Lewis Vann cannot be

Excused

excused on any principle; the law of retaliation do
not Justify the act, for as far from its being ascer
=ined that his brother was killed by a White man,
his death is yet uncertain, for as I mentioned in
a former letter, the body has never been found.— I am
particularly desireous that Vaun Should not escape pu
=nishment. Mr. Patterson has recovered, but Vaun wou
=nded him Severely & Should be corporally punnished
for the act.— This Lewis Vaun is not only an Assassin,
but a lying man— he held Several conferences with
me relative to his brother Samuel who is missing, an
when we last parted Solemnly promised in my presen
and in the face of the Sun, not to do mischief, until w
had another talk.—

The arrest of Bowles is a fortunate circumstanc
this is a restless mischievous man, His absence from
the creeks will promote their trangeility & Welfare.—

Property Stolen from Indians by White people,
Should be paid for, but the Law does not contempla
that payment Should be made by the United States,"
unless the Offender Shall be unable to pay a Sum a
least equal to the Just value" of the property taken,
and provided that neither the Indian who had
Sustained the loss, in any of the Nations to which
he belongs Shall have Sought private revenge o
attempted to take Satisfaction by force. If there
any cases in the Nation of this discription, you wo
be Safe in Making compensation. — I am myself
Opinion that if a fit case has occurred, of which
you will (in your discretion) Judge, it would

would be good be good policy to make a compensation, and immediately call the attention of the Chiefs, to the many Horses which are stolen from the travelers in the Wilderness, and assure them, that if their depredations are not prevented, the Choctaw Nation, will be held responcible.

I am Sir, &c,

(Signed, Wm C. C. Claiborne

To Silas Dinsmoor, Washington June 30th 1804 [1803?]
Agent &c. Choctaw Nation)

Sir,

Enclosed is a Proclamation which I issued on the 14th. Instant— if the infamous characters alluded to, I should seek an asylum in the Choctaw Country, or be found travelling thro' the same, I pray you to have them arrested and conveyed to Natchez, and to effect this Object, I can see no impropriety in employing confidential & active Indians.—

A daring robbery has Recently been committed on the Cumberland road— An Samuel Mason and his associates are supposed to be the Offenders.— Untill this Lawless Banditti are suppressed the Travellers will never be safe.—

I am Sir, &c,

(Signed, Wm C. C. Claiborne

Note— similar letter was addressed to the agent among the Chickasaws.—

No 81

To Samuel Mitchell Esq.
United States Agent
Chickasaw Nation
Sir,

Washington July 1st 1

From the enclosed letter it appears that a
Mare the property of a son of Jeb. Greens, a citizen of
this Territory, is in the possession of a Chickasaw Indi
You will be pleased to demand the Mare, and if
she is not delivered up, you will then mention the subje
to the King, and request his influence. —

I am Sir &c

Signed, Wm C. C. Claiborne

No 82

To Samuel Mitchell
United States Agent
Chickasaw Nation
Sir,

Near Natchez July 14th 1804
[1803]

Your Official communications of the 22nd and 23
Ultimo have been received and carefully perused.

It is doubtful, whither the 10th Section of the Indian
intercourse Law, can be applied to the White men
residing in the Indian Territory — The Spirit of the la
seems opposed to such a construction, altho' from the
letter it might appear admissable to remove howe
all doubts, and as little or no trouble will attend th
issuing of Licences; you will be pleased to grant
Special permission to purchase Horses, to such
honest and well disposed white residents as ma

make

make application.— I particularly noticed that part of your letter which related to the solicitude of the Chickasaws, to receive the articles promised them by the Commissioners at the Bluffs, and I shall lay the subject before the Secretary— If the Indians continue to press you, for the delivery of their annuity, you will repair to the Bluffs, and make a distribution, taking with you only such number of Indians, as will be necessary to a Just distribution, and dispatching the business with all convenient Expedition.—

With regard to the wishes of Messrs Grub & Bright, I have, very recently received such information, as makes it my duty to with hold a Licence, until I receive instructions from the Secretary, or assurances from the From the Factor at the Bluffs, that a private Store would do no injury to the publick Factory— The disposition of the Chickasaws to pay their debts serves to confirm me in an opinion, that the Nation is Just and their Chiefs virtuous, good men. To enable the Nation to pay their debts, if a Sale of Lands be necessary, I do believe the President will be disposed to purchase, but it seems to me, that a cession of the Chickasaw Claim to certain Lands adjacent to the big River would best answer both parties.—

The trade down the Mississippi being very considerable, it would be a great accommodation to the citizens of the U. States to have the country

adjacent thereto Settled and improved, and since most of the game have retired from the Chickasaw lands, and the Chickasaws are in the habit of maki their hunts West of the Mississippi, I should suppos that an American Settlement on that River, from whence the hunters might receive all their supplie and find too, an immediate market for their m would be to them also a great convenience. Will you mention my opinion to my friend to Major Colb and other of the Chiefs & inform me, whither they accord with me in an Opinion;— I do not exactly know the extent of country on the Mississippi claim by the Chickasaws, can you inform me.

Very respectfully Yours &c,

(Signed) W. C. C. Claiborne

No. 38 To H. Dearborn Secretary of War } Near Natchez August 14th 1803;

Sir.

In a late letter from Samuel Mitchell the Chickas Agent, he says "the travellers are very unhealthy I hav "scarcely had my house clear of sick people for three "Months the taking care of the diseased is both troub "some and expensive to me". I have no doubt but th this Statement of Mr Mitchells is correct, and I wo advise, that he be furnished by the publick with assortment of Medicine.— Mr Mitchells friend

attention to his sick and unfortunate countrymen entitle him to great credit.

I am Sir, very respectfully
Your Humble Sert.
(Signed) William C.C. Claiborne

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24. To Silas Dinsmoor } Near Natchez August 16th. 1804
Choctaw Agent } [1803?]

Sir,

Your letter of the 16th. and 26th. Ultimo together with their enclosures have been duly received.— The sentiments you expressed to the Chiefs and Red-Men on the Subject of recent outrages were very proper, and will I flatter myself produce the desired effect; If Indian depredations should be renewed on the Columbian high way; an example ought and must be made— The offer which you made to the Chiefs of assistance to enforce their authority, was well timed and if assistance should realy be necessary; I do hope the Government will afford it.— You will be pleased to encourage the Choctaws in their disposition to Sell a part of their Lands; it is probable the executive will be disposed to make a purchase, provided it can be effected on Moderate terms.— I wish you also to ascertain how far the Chiefs are inclined to part with their Claim to the Lands on the Mississippi & advise me thereof; you will speak on this subject with delicacy and caution lest the Jealousy of the Choctaws might be

be aroused, and an opinion received, that the United States coveted their Lands— The proposals of commuting debts of blood for cash is favourable to humanity & will communicate it to the Secretary of War for his approbation— In the mean time I request you to inform the Red Bird, that I approve of his aversion to the Shedding of Innocent Blood, and that I shall hereafter hold him in high estimation.—

Should you find that a few presents to the amount of 70 or 80 dollars would appease the wrath of the friends to the deceased, and prevent retaliation, you will be pleased to make them.— I have not understood that General Wilkinson is vested with any of the powers of a Superintendant, or agent, having for some time been employed as a Commissioner on the line, he has unavoidably had some agency in the Choctaw affairs and I therefore think that the invitation which through the General has been given to a few Chiefs to visit the Northward ought to be attended to— Several packets which I found in the Post office addressed to you, I have forwarded to the Chickasaws.

I am Sir, Very respectfully
(Signed) Wm C. C. Claiborne

To H. Dearborn Esq.r Dear Sathy
Secretary of War. } August the 16.th 180[3]
Sir,

Mr. Denman informs me that the Choctaw Chiefs highly disapprove the outrages which some

of their young Men have recently committed on the Wilderness road, & had lamented their want of power to punnish the Offenders.—

Mr. Dinsmoor offered to give the Chiefs assistance to enforce their authority, which for the present they declined receiving, but the offer has excited alarm among the vetious and will probably restrain depredations for the future.—

Hoashee Hoomah or the Red Bird a Choctaw Chief regrets the loss of a relation killed some years ago in Kentucky on Cumberland.— Some of the connections of the deceased speak of revenge, but the Red is much opposed to the Shedding of Innocent blood and supposes that the resentment of the family might be appeased by Suitable presents in goods or money— The proposal of cancelling in this way, this debt of blood, I think it expedient to accede to.— Mr. Dinsmoor has been requested to make the Red Bird and his connections presents to the Amount of 50 or 80 dollars but, I fear, a Sum less than 300 dollars will not be deemed adequate compensation— Previous however to my authorising any more presents on this occation, I could wish your approbation. With Sentiments of great esteem and respect.—

I am Sir your Most Obt. Servt.

(Signed) W. C. C. Claiborne

[It see doc. 169, Sen. 8th, Vol. 3, Dinsmoor to Claiborne, July 16, 1803]

43

No. 36

To Samuel Mitchell Esq.r
Agent for the U. States
Chickasaw Nation

Near Natchez
August 17.th 1804

[18038]

Sir,

Your letter of the 6.th Instant has been received— I shall forward to the Governor of Kentucky, the talk from the King and chiefs, and I am certain they will receive in reply a true statement of facts— The Governor is a beloved Man, and friend to truth and Justice; his heart would rejoice to see the guilty die, but he is too Just to punish the Innocent— I persuade myself that the King, Chiefs and Warriors of the Nation are all opposed to the shedding of innocent blood— And I therefore rest Satisfied, that my favourite Children the Chickasaws will do no mischief— Inform my friend Major Colbert that I have made enquiry, but can hear nothing of his Negro or the white Man, who said he had seen him at Natchez; the Major may rely on my readiness to serve him, whenever it may be in my power— You will be pleased to allow John Lewis Six dollars as compensation for the Whisky which he says was taken from him by Captain Rudy— Lewis acted very improperly in selling Whisky to the Soldiers and deserves to have lost it, but since he has assured you that he did not act wrong intentionally it may be advisable to make him some remuneration— there are other parts of your letter which I Shall

decline answering until I have consulted the Secretary of War.

I am Sir, Very respectfully
Your Humble Servt.
(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

P. S. I enclose you an Advertisement of the Secretary of War by order of the President of the United States offering a reward of 100 Dollars for the apprehending any person who heretofore has been or may within 12 Months hereafter be concerned in any outrage on the Wilderness road — You will cause this advertisement to be explained to the Chickasaws. —

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37 To his Excellency the } Near Natchez August 17th 1803.
Governor of Kentucky }

Sir,

The Chickasaw Indians have expressed to me great grief for the loss of a Warrior who was killed (some time in March last) at Edyville in Kentucky and talk from the King, and Chiefs upon the subject I now at their request enclose to your Excellency. —

If you should think proper to commit to my care your answer to the talk, I will immediately forward it to the Nation — In the mean time, I shall use all the means in my power to calm the uneasiness, which at present prevails, and to prevent any outrage.

The Chickasaws are a worthy people warmly attached to the United States and more friendly to peace

and

and good order, than any other tribe of Indians.

I pray your Excellency to accept assurances of my great regard & Respectful consideration. —

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

No 35

To Joseph Chambers
United States Factor
Fort St. Stephens

Town of Washington
August 24th 1804
[1803]

Sir,

Yours of the 8th Instant has been received. But I am more unwilling than ever, to give you answers from myself to your Queries, as you may now depend on receiving very shortly from the superindendant of Military Stores, a communication which will without doubt put an end to your difficulties, and be more Satisfactory than any opinion of mine, as it will be conclusive on the Subject.

I have therefore only to say that in the mean time I shall for my part be well satisfied with any arrangements, which your Judgment approves of, and recommends it to you, to proceed to purchase Cotton, Pettry &c, on such terms as you may deem most advantageous. The qualities of the articles of purchase, in which you deal are naturally so various, and their Market price is so liable to fluctuation, that at such a distance from the seat of Government, much must always be left to your own discretion. —

your measures hitherto, as detailed in your letter, can not be otherwise than pleasing to every well wisher to the Factory and and the Government you serve.

To me it is particularly gratifying that you seem to keep so faithfully in view, those principles of economy in the expences of your establishment, which are equally essential to the prosperity of every branch and concern of a free Government. —

It is probable you will have heard of the success of Mr. Monroe's embassy to the Court of St Bloud before this reaches you. — I have thereof only to add, that the information on this head given in the public prints is correct. And I do not question but that you will sincerely partake with me in the heartfelt Joy, at that signal proof of the genuine philantrophy, patriotism and splendid talents of the amiable and able Statesman who now presides over this grateful Nation. The Island of New Orleans, and the whole of Louisiana, as Spain possessed the same, are ceded to the United States, for a consideration not exceeding fifteen Millions of dollars, and certain debts due by the French republic to the citizens of the U. S. are to be assumed by our Government and admitted in part payment. Mr Monroe is by this by this time at the court of Spain: But concerning his negociation there no advices are yet received. —

Congress have been called to meet on the 17th of October, to expedite the final ratification of

the French Treaty. And it is not improbable, but that before Christmas day next, the Standard of the United States will be unfurled on the ramparts of New Orlean

Your talks with the Indians are well calculated to gain their confidence, and rigid fulfilment of your promises to them will perhaps secure it. But the ficelenefs of human Nature is no where more con=spicuous than than in Savage life: The ferocious are ever prone to resentment, however small or ima=genary the provocation, and the ignorant are always credulous. Permit me therefore to remind you that there should be no intermifsion, of your endeavours not only to conciliate but also unceasingly to preserve the affections of those people. Let it be your study, besides employing the more superficial arts of pleasing, to impress as deep and as constantly as possible upon the minds of the more thinking. The inestimable advantages which our Government possefs above every other upon earth; our faithful observance of treaties, our incorruptible Justice & the indiscrimination of our Laws which afford equal protection to the humblest Indi Stranger that traverses our pathless woods, and the proudest Captain in our Country. And forget not to instil into their hearts a grateful esteem for our beloved political father at Washington whose Natural philanthropy interests him so deeply

in the happyness of his Red Children. The success of Mr. Monroe in France may also be communicated to them with advantage. When they learn that the United States have superceded the Spanish Monarch in the possession of the vast and valuable province of Louisiana, and that even the great Nation has yielded its claims to us, we shall trust rise high in their estimation; Policy will at all events direct them to court the friendship of that power, which has no longer any rivals within their reach.—

Rest assured of my intire confidence in your Skill and fidelity in the execution of the trust reposed in you:— And accept my Sincere good Wishes for your health, an the success of the esta=blishment in Your care.——

(Signed) Wm. C. C. Claiborne

To Samuel Mitchell } Near Natchez September 6th 1803,
Chickasaw Nation }

Sir, Alexander Scott visits the Nation, with a view to recover some Negroes which were plundered from John and James Pettigrew on the Tennessee River, in the year 1794, by the Cherokee Indians.— Some of these Negroes are in the possession of a Man of the name of Meazles, now residing at the Chickasaw Bluffs.—

I desire that you will give Mr. Scott all the aid in your power, in accomplishing the object of his Journey, but Should any dificultty occur in this business,

which

which cannot be removed by your Agency you will be pleased to advise me immediately thereof.—

I am Sir very respectfully

Your Hble Servt.

(Signed,) William C. C. Claiborne

No. 40

Near Natchez October 5th 1803,

A Talk from William C. C. Claiborne Governor of the Mississippi Territory and Superintendant of Indian affairs to King, Chiefs and Warriors of Chickasaw Nation,—

Brothers! I have heard with great pleasure that you are becoming cultivators of the soil living happy and growing rich. I have long wished to pay you a visit and hold a friendly talk face to face with my Chickasaw friends; but as my business still confines me to Natchez, I send you this talk and I desire that it may be received in friendship, and heard with attention.

Brothers! I have nothing to ask of you, but what is for your goods. and I would give you no adv but such as a father would give to his children.—

Brothers! what is the reason none of you settle on the roads leading thro' your Land to Nashville, and furnish travellers with comfort- able lodgings and sell the provisions for themsel and Horses. is it because you are not able to buil houses, clean ground and raise corn! If this is t cause your father the President will help you,

provided

provided you would take some honest White Men into partnership, such as you and myself wold both like.

Brothers! I realy think it would benefit your Nation very much, if you would consent that Tavern should be erected every Twenty Miles distant through you land for the accommodation of travellers and if the Chickasaws would consent to lease small Tracts of Land for that purpose at a certain price to any to any honest White men, who would be agreeable both to them and me; or if some industrious Chickasaws would take honest White men into partnership, and make the desired establishment, then Father the President of the United States would give them assistance in erecting the necessary Buildings. —

Brothers! I wish you would take this subject into consideration, and return me an answer, through your Agent Mr Samuel Mitchell. —

Brothers! I do not want your Land, but I wish you to rent a part of it for your own benefit, and I again repeat that I ask nothing but what is for your own good. It is true I wish to see your white brothers who travel through your country well accommodated, and I want also to see you make money and become industrious Farmers which will happen, if you will agree to what I have proposed. ——

I wish you health and happiness

(Signed) William C.C. Claiborne

To Governor Claiborne } War department September 23rd 18
Sir,

Your favours of the 10th and 18th ultimo have been received.— You will please to direct such sum to be given the family of the relation of Red Bird who was killed by the white person as may be found necessary, provided it does not exceed two hundred dollars.—

I am very respectfully
Your Humble Servt
(Signed) H. Dearborne

To H. Dearborn } Near Natchez October 23d. 1803
Secretary of War }
Sir,

Your letter of the 23d. ultimo has been duly received, and the necessary instructions with respect to the family of the Red Bird were immediately given to Mr Dinsmoor.—

I have thro' our Agents in the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, addressed the Indians on the subject of establishment on wilderness Road for the accommodation of the Post Riders, and other travellers, and the object shall not be lost sight of by me untill the plan is acceeded to.—

Previous to my receiving your letter of the 9th of July (which was delayed in consequence of its having been directed this mistake to Governor Harrison) containing instructions relative to the establishment

on the road.— Mr Mitchell had acted upon the let
which you addressed to him upon the same subject and
could not prevail upon the Chickasaws to take White men
into partnership upon any terms but, I indulge some
hope, the application from myself will be attended
with better success.—

So much of my instructions to Messrs Donaldson
and Mitchell of the 25 and 30th of January last (copies
of which were forwarded to you) as requested information
as to the numbers and force of the two nations, their
Government, Laws, customs and a sketch of the Geogra-
=phical position, natural advantages &c. of the Chickasaw
and Choctaw Country, has not yet been complied with;
but on those points, I presume a communication will
shortly be made.—

Some weeks ago Mr Donaldson sent me three
Horses, which were delivered him by the Choctaws, as
belonging to a citizen or citizens of the U. States. These
horses have been advertised for some time in the
Natchez paper, and no owner has appeared.—

To meet the expences for bringing them in,
feeding &c, I shall offer them at public sale in a few
days, and an account of the proceeds will be transm-
=itted to you: I recollect such was the practice by the
agent at War in Tennessee, when a horse was forwa-
=rded by the Cherokees, and no owner appeared, and
on this occation I have thought it advisable to
follow the precedent; I beg however that you will

give

gave special instructions for my Government, in Similar cases for the future.—

With respect and esteem I am
Sir your Humble Servt.
(Signed) William C.C. Claiborne

No. 42 To Silas Dinsmoor Esqr. Indian Agent Town of Washington October 23. 1801

Sir,

Your letter of the 18th. of September & 2nd. October have been duly received.

The cession of Louisiana to the U. States, will put an end to the Spanish influence among the Choctaws, and will render the duties of your Agency more pleasing to yourself.— It may not be improper to communicate to the Mingoes and Warriors the expected change in the Government below accompanied with assurances, that the U. States will continue to respect the right of their Red Children, and that the Choctaws have nothing to fear so long as they conduct themselves with friendship and sincerity towards the american citizens.—

It is important to the U. States, that the, transportation of the Mail from Natchez, to Nashville, should be conducted as safe and as expeditious as possible, and that the travellers thro' the Wilderness should meet with comfortable and secure Lodgings. To effect this desirable Object," it is proposed that endeavours should be made to prevail upon the Chickasaws and Choctaws to admit Several white people with their families, connected with suitable

Indians

to establish houses for the accommodation of the Post riders and other travelers, and for their horses, at a distance not exceeding Twenty or Thirty Miles from each other. — Each white man to have a lease of the Indians of a few hundred Acres of Land for cultiv=ation to enable him to be in partnership with such Indian as may be selected by the Nation and the Indian to draw a reasonable share of the pro=fits of the establishment. If the Indians will agree to such an establishment, the U. States, will advance a reasonable proportion of the money necessary to build a small house and stable at each place. The Lands would remain the Indians and they would derive considerable advantage from the opportunity, such an amazing event would afford them for acquiring a knowledge of agriculture and the household arts." — I have written to Mr Stitchell upon the subject, and forwarded a talk from myself to the King, Chiefs, & Warriors, of the Chickasaw Nation: —

You will be pleased to loose no time in mentioning this subject to the upper Choctaw Mingoes & Warriors, and to urge their coming into the measure. — I have not yet received an Answer from the Chickasaws, but I must confess, that I fear they will not be as accommodating as is desired. —

To such presents as you may have made the family of the Red Bird you will add such further compensation for the loss of his

relation

relation, as you may find expedient, provided the whole compensation does not exceed two hundred dollars, which sum is stated by the secretary in a letter to me, as the ne plus ultra.

New Orleans will certainly be surrendered to the United States early in the Month of Decemb

The historical sceteh of the Choctaws and of their Country, which was requested of you I shall expect to be favoured with in a short time.

I wish you health and happiness

(Signed) William C. C. Claiborne

To Samuel Mitchell } Town of Washington October 24th. 1804

[1803?]

Sir,

Your letter of the 15th. Instant with the documents refered to, were duly received.—

The determination of the Chickasaws with respect to the establishment on the road is not such, as I could have wished;— I fear that houses under the care of Indians alone will prove of little benefit; the probable is that the supply of provisions will be limitted, and their accommodation for travelers very indifferent.— I entertain some hopes, that my late address to the nation upon this subject, aided by your exertions, may induce them to take white men into Copartnership;— The prospect for plentiful Supplies would then be more flatt-ering, and travellers would hopes confidence in the establishment.—

Your decision in the case of John McIntos

deceased, meets with my approbation: from the testimony adduced, it seems to me, that the Widow (the half breed Woman) is Justly entitled to the property;— I however advise that the Woman present William Mc Intosh with horses, or other property to the value of 70 dollars as compensation for his long Journey.— This would be a friendly act, and might the better reconcile the young man to his disapointment.—

I wish you would comply with my instructions of the 30th. of January last; a lengthy History of the Chickasaw Nation is not expected: but a concise and accurate account of their numbers, Government, Laws, Customs and of the climate productions advantages and of the country, is desired and I should supose could in a few days, be prepared by you.—

I am Sir, Very respectfully
Your Humble Servant.
(Signed,) William C.C. Claiborne

Proceedings by Cato West Secretary, as Superintendant of Indian affairs, in the absence of the Governor of the Mississippi Territory

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To Silas Dinsmoor Esq.r Town of Washington January 20th. 1804

Sir,

Jonathan Jones a citizen of this Territory, about two years and a half since had a bay Mare Stolen from him

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by a Choctaw Indian, called Stanley's brother in Law. for further particulars respecting this affair I refer you to the enclosed documents, which are copied from the Originals now in this office. — You will therefore please to use your endeavours in obtaining or procuring payment of the Indians for that property, and in case of failure therein report the same in due time, in order that further legal steps may be taken to Satisfy the Owner. —

I am Sir respectfully yours &c,
(Signed, Cato West.

No. 46

Mississippi Territory.

By Cato West Secretary exercising the powers and performing the duties of Governor of the Mississippi Territory and Superintendant of Indian affairs.

Whereas Jacob Bright of the Chickasaw Nation hath made application to me for Licence to trade with the Indians at the Chickasaw Bluffs on the Mississippi, and hath entered into bond with approved Security as the law in that case directs. —

Now Know ye, that by virtue of authority in me vested, as Superintendant of Indian affairs; I have thought proper to grant and do by these presents licence the said Jacob Bright to trade with the Indians at the Chickasaw Bluffs aforesaid, for and during the Term of Six Months from the date hereof, he the said Bright faithfully observing

and strictly conforming to all such regulations, and restrictions as are or shall be made for the Government of trade and intercours with the Indian Tribes.—

Given under my hand and Seal of Office at the Town of Washington and Territory aforesaid the Twenty first day of January in the year of our Lord, One thousand eight hundred and four and the Twenty eighth year of American Independance.—

(Signed) Dato West

To Mr. Petrican ... Factor at the 6, Bluffs

Town of Washington January 21st 1804

Sir,

Upon the application of Mr. Jacob Bright I have thought proper to grant him a Licence to trade with the Indians at the Chickasaw Bluffs for Six Months;— And should you find this establishment to interfere materially with the United States factory at that place, you will please to advise me.—

I am Sir very respectfully
your Mo. Obt. Servt.
(Signed) Dato West.

To Henry Dearborn Esqr. Secretary of War ...

Town of Washington January 28th 1804

Sir,

I have granted Licence to Mr. Jacob Bright to

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Trade with the Indians at the Chickasaw Bluffs for six Months;— This I have been induced to do from his peculiar Situation in having purchased a Quantity of Goods for that purpose, prior to the establishment of the Factory by the United States, at that place, and as I am informed by the Agent, at the request of a number of the principal Chiefs of the Chickasaw Nation which goods are now on the spot.— I have written to the Factor to inform me how far Brights store may affect the Factory, and if it should be found injurious, the licence will not be renewed of Course.—

Signed, Eato West

No. 49

To Samuel Mitchell Esqr. Agent to the Choctaws. Chickasaws

Town of Washington February 25th 1804

Sir,

Your letter of the 31st January and Nineteenth Instant with their enclosures ever duly received, not being informed of the mode usually pursued for the payment of your accounts against the United States and finding no Vouchers to support the latter Items, I shall defer any proceedings thereon untill, I hear from you again upon the subject.—

With respect to Mr. M.Gee I have written to the Secretary of War recommending that he be continued upon the terms proposed, and hope for his answer shortly, in the mean time, you may as you deem it for the interest Of the United States engage Mr. M.Gee for two Months at the rate of five hundred dollars per Annum.—

I am Sir, Yours &c.

Signed, Eato West

To Henry Dearborn Esqr. Secretary of War } Mississippi Territory
Town of Washington Feby 29th 1804

Sir,

Mr. Samuel Mitchell Agent in the Chickasaw Nation informs me that Malcom McGee his interpreter declines serving any longer without an augmentation of Wages— he requires five hundred dollars a year.—

Mr. McGee is doubtless well acquainted, and I believe faithful to his trust, he is in the confidence of and much esteemed by the Indians; and as it is important that such a person should be employed for that service, I would recommend that he be continued upon the Terms proposed, and that his Wages commence with the present year.—

Believing it essential at this crisis particularly that the Agent should be aided in his duties by a good Interpreter, I have undertaken to authorise him to continue Mr. McGee for two Months at the rate of five hundred dollars per Annum / his own price / before the end of that time I hope your instructions upon the subject will be received by which we shall thereafter be governed.—

I have the honor to be &c

(Signed) Cato West.

To Cato West Esquire } War Department March 1st 1804

Sir,

A Letter without a signature has been received at this Office dated Washington Mississippi Territory Janua

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23.d 1804. in which it is stated a licence has been granted to Jacob Bright to trade with the Indians at the Chickasaw Bluffs.—

Conceiving the above letter was written by you, but by accident omitted your signature, I take the liberty of observing that ~~Lax~~ complaints have been made concerning Mr. Brights conduct at the Post last year & it is believed his continuance there would be highly injurious to the Public, it is therefore to be regretted he obtained a Licence & if it can with propriety be done I wish it may be revoked & that no person be licenced to trade at that Post while the public Store remains there.—

If I hear of any improper interference on his part with the public Agent at that place, it will be necessary to order him from the vicinity of that Post without delay.

I am respectfully your Hble Servt,

(Signed,) H. Dearborn

No. 3 To Henry Dearborn Esqr. Secretary of War . . . } Town of Washington April 4.th 1804

Sir,

Your letter of the 1.st Ultimo in Answer to mine of the 23.d January last, was duly received, and please accept my apology for Omitting to place my name to that letter, which I suppose happened by mistake of the Clerk in folding and directing it without my particular Observation being then under the pressure of much public business.

I am extremely sorry Sir, that my proceeding in granting Licence to Jacob Bright for trading with the Indians at the Chickasaw Bluffs is not satisfactory.—

And I very much regret my want of information of the complaints you mention respecting Brights conduct at the Bluffs— However, unless some good cause should be made appear, for revoking his Licence (by future misconduct) I trust it will be allowed to continue during the time for which it was granted, being six Months only.—

Every proper caution on my part has been taken, to guard the Interest of the United States, on this occation— a proper Bond duly executed was obtained, and I wrote early to our agent at the Bluffs to inform me how far Brights establishment would interfere with the public Store at that place— no information has yet been received from him upon the subject.— But should it prove materialy injurious which he will doubtless make known, the necessary steps shall be taken promptly;—

And no licence shall be granted by me for any future trading at the Bluffs, during the continuance of the Public Store at that place, without the express sanction of the Government previously Obtained.—

I have the honor to be respectfully
Sir, yours &c—
(Signed,) Cato West.

To Cato West Esquire } Choctaw Agency 17th May 1804

Sir,

Oakchuimmy last evening gave me information that the relatives of the Man killed a little more than a year ago at Natchez landing, appears still to be disposed to avenge his death on some white man. A Brother of the deceased he says is now in the neighbourhood of Natchez & he fears with bad intentions. I feel it my duty to give you the earliest information that the citizens and Travellers may be on their guard. I state the particulars more fully to Judge Ker from whom you may receive them. I sent Oakchuimmie home this day requiring him to call a council of the leaders of the upper Towns & told him if any White Man was killed, I should stop every species of Supplies from their Nation till the guilty person should be punnished, & I am in hopes this measure will have the desired effect to induce those leaders to exert their influence and authority to prevent the mischief.—

I am very respectfully Sir,
Your Obedient Servant.
(Signed, (Silas Dinsmoor —

To David Berry } Washington May the 29th 1804

Sir,

A Brother of the Indian who was killed about a year since in the City of Natchez, I am informed is now in this neighbourhood, it is believed with bad intentions— You will therefore endeavour to find him as soon as possible; and bring him before me if to be done without force or violence, if not you

will report accordingly, without delay— In the mean time I wish to see you as soon as you can make it convenient to call here.—

I am Sir, Yours &c,

(Signed, Cato West

To Silas Dinsmoor Esqr. Agent to the Choctaws

Town of Washington May 31st. 1804

Sir,

Your letter of the 17th. Instant by Judge Ker was duly received— The information it contains is alarming, but hope we shall be able to prevent the threatened mischief— Your talks to the Indians upon the subject will doubtless have a good effect— And if the Indian (Brother to the deceased) is to be found in these settlements I have determined to detain him untill ample security is obtained of those tribes for his peaceable behaviour, to this end I have issued my Proclamation, a copy of which I herewith enclose, requiring the Citizens or any of them who may see the said Indian to cause him to come before me as soon as possible— The Indians now in this place will probably take some alarm on the occation, and may carry to the Nation improper reports, but you will be able to explain the affair to their sattisfaction.—

We are at a loss to know the fellow for want of his name and discription, however the Interpretter here is very vegilant and may find him out.—

I wrote you sometime since respecting a Mare

Stolen

stolen from Jonathan Jones by a Choctaw Indian, which letter I suppose you received — I would therefore thank you to inform me the State of that affair as early as may be convenient. — Mr. Jones is a poor man and ought to be indemnified as soon as it can be done legally.

Yours respectfully —

(Signed, Gato West.)

No. 56

To Henry Dearborn Esq.r Town of Washington June 2.nd 1804
Secretary of War . . . .

Sir,

I have been recently informed by our Agent in the Choctaws that the relatives of an Indian who was Killed in the City of Natchez about a year since have declared their intention of avenging his death on some White man — and that a brother of the deceased is now in this neighbourhood as he has reason to believe with hostile views — The Agent has given the Indians some talks upon the subject, threatning that if any White man should be killed in this way, he would stop all supplies to the Nation, untill the offender is given up for punishment — And I have issued a Proclamation requiring that the said Indian Brother to the deceased, be brought before me if to be found within these Settlements. — my intention is to secure him, untill I can obtain ample security from those tribes for his peaceable behaviour which is the best that can in my Opinion be done in the affair —

will you be pleased Sir, to inform me whither the expence which may arise on this occasion will be paid by the United States, and the mode of obtaining it.

I am respectfully yours &c

(Signed) Cato West

To Cato West Esqr. Natchez 9th June 1804

Sir,

The Secretary at War directed me to deliver some Iron, Hoes, axes &c, which he intends for the Choctaw Indians at Fort Adams or such other place in the Territory as the superintendant for that Nation might advise— Will you be so kind as to give me your advice on this subject and direct me where you would prefer them left, that I may procure your receipt for the same. —

I am most respectfully
your Obt. Servt.

(Signed) William Cocke

To Colo. William Cocke Natchez June the 9th 1804

Sir,

Your letter of this date was duly received— In which you inform me of your having some Iron, Hoes, Axes &c, the property of the United States, intended for the Choctaw Indians.— And request my advice of the most proper place for depositing those articles— I am of Opinion

Sir, that the City of Natchez is the most suitable & convenient place for their deposit.— And I shall direct my Clerk to receive and store them in that place.—

Yours respectfully
(Signed, Cato West.)

No. 9 To Silas Dinsmoor Esqr. Agent to the Chickasaws } Town of Washington June 13th 1804

Sir,

I have just received one hundred and forty three Axes, Three hundred and Sixty Hoes, Fifteen hundred pounds of Bar Iron, said to be for the use of the Choctaws,— I have not yet received any advice from the Government upon this subject but so soon as I may be instructed thereon measures shall be taken for conveying those Articles to the Nation,— or for their delivery to your Order.—

I am Sir with respect Yours &c,
(Signed, Cato West.)

July 5th 1804.

A Copy of the above Journal was transmitted to the Secretary of State's Office

To Gaite Ward Boyce
Secretary of the Mississippi Territory

Choctaw Agency
10th June 1804

Sir, I acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 20th January last, on the Subject of Jonathan Jones's Mare I have made every possible enguiry and employed a Man to go through the whole District of the upper Towns to ascertain the facts. The result of the whole is that Stanley never had a brother in Law, that no person by the name of Jokee is or has been known in the Choctaw Country, nor has any Mare of the desc=-iption given been seen in this Country. I have a list of all the destroyed & stolen Horses which have come to my Knowledge and none answers the descr=-iption, a list of the horses I have received from the Indians I sent for Advertisement in the Natchez herald and will give public notice once a Quarter of all I shall hereafter obtain. I have the Sattisfaction to assure you that the Talk given to Oakchummy as Stated in my letter of the 17th May, had the desired effect, & the Indians alarmed on account of their Supplies are disposed to give every assurance that no innocent Man shall Suffer. The caution given travelers may be of Course Suspended.

I am very respectfully
Sir Your Obedient Servant.
(Signed) Silas Dinsmoor.

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To Cato West Esqure
Secretary of the Mississippi Territory

Fort St. Stephens
15th June 1804

No 61

Sir,

Mingo Homastubbee reports that about the latter part of the Winter before the last past a Choctaw by the name of Ooglahuntubbee lost a horse at a place which they call Tamaha Pooscoos or the first little Town on this side of Natchez (perhaps Washington or Ellicotsville) of the following description Viz. a Flea bitten Grey, a small well formed horse paces, branded on the Jaw O, a short tail the value of the horse he estimates at Twenty five dollars.

John Pitchlynn reports that an Indian by the name of Helubbee lost a bay mare & Black horse colt at the treaty at Fort Adams, the Mare was small about thirteen hands high, a white face and most of her head white, blind of an Eye and one or more of her feet White.

The above mentioned creatures were lost in the Settlements of White people & the Indians have not since seen them, the Object of this report is, that the Governor may give me instructions to regulate my conduct & enable me either to pay or bar the claim I will add that I believe it would be policy to admit the claims & pay them, because there are but few of this kind, & the confidence such a measure would inspire would enable me to recover with more promptitude the many stolen Horses now in possession of the Choctaws. I flatter myself with a hope of a Speedy Answer on this Subject.

I am very respectfully
Sir Your Obedient Servant
Silas Dinsmoor

(signed)

To Cato West Esquire
Acting as Governor of the M.T.

Choctaw Agency
16th June 1804

Sir,

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 31st Ultimo which came to hand since my letter of yesterday was written, to which & to my communication on the 10th Instant I will beg leave to refer you for information on the subjects to which you allude. I beg leave also to urge the policy & expediency of admitting the claims of the Indians as they are themselves convinced they are Just, & the trouble and expence of collecting horses among them would be much lessened. I delayed Answering your letter on the subject of Mr Jones's Mare, only till I could collect the best information obtainable in the case. I have no doubt from the Testimony, that the Mare was seen in the possession of an Indian but I believe the deponents were deceived respecting the Indians name and connections as Stanley never had a brother in law.

I am very respectfully
Sir, your Obedient Servant
(Signed) Silas Dinsmoor

To Silas Dinsmor Esqr.
Agent to the Choctaws

Town of Washington
July 10th 1804

Sir,

Your letters of the 10th 15th and 16th Ultimo were duly received. I am happy to learn that the

Nation have interposed with effect to prevent the threatened mischief and trust there remains no cause for any further ~~alarm~~ alarm on the same account.

With respect to the horse creatures lost by the Indians in the settlements of this Territory (if they are not found) I think with you, it would be good policy for the Government to pay for them, and to that effect I shall write to the Secretary of War whose Answer shall be communicated to you as soon as may be convenient after the receipt thereof.

I am respectfully Sir Your &c.

(Signed) Cato West.

To, Cato West Esquire . . . Chickasaw Agency

acting Governor of the M.T.S. June 23d. 1804

Sir

The Secretary of War under date of the 2nd. of April has given me orders unless my Interpreter will take a reasonable sum for his services to discharge him, & imploy another, I am of Opinion he would serve for four hundred dollars per Annum which would be only an increase of Forty dollars which would not be an Object with Government, I would rather that you would Write me on the subject and advise me. It is my opinion that he would be of more service to the United States, than any other that can be employed.— I shall for the moment employ him at the price above Stated untill I am advised by you which I wish by the return Mail.

With due respect I am

Your Humble Servant

(Signed) Samuel Mitchell

Samuel Mitchell Esquire
Agent to the Chickasaws

Jefferson County July 3d 1804

Sir,

Your communication of the 23d Instant was handed to me by my son, — I wrote to the Secretary of War Sometime Since upon the Subject of your Interpreters Wages, but have received no Answer, and as the Secretary has himself instructed you upon that Subject, I see no room for any further interference of mine on the occasion, you will therefore doubtless pursue, the directions of the Government. Should I however receive any communications relative to this case you shall be informed as early as possible.

My Son Mentioned your intention to visit Tennessee for a Short time, to that I have no objection provided your absence may occasion no injury to the Service in which you are engaged.

I am Sir respectfully yours &c.

(Signed) Cato West.

The two last letters were omitted in the proper place. by mistake

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To Colonel Cato West Chactaw Agency 6th August 1804

Sir,

Your favour of the 10th July arrived by the last Express from the Chickasaws. I wish for immediate Instructions how to dispose of the stray Horses in my possession as advertized in the Mississippi Herald.

They are troublesome and expensive and the

Indians will occationly borrow them without leave Would it not be advisable to expose them to public Sale for cash. and return the proceeds for the use of the Owners?

I have a very great desire to visit the Seat of government in the Autumn after Indians go hunting if I can obtain your permission. My Object is to present my surveys on this Country and give personal explanations which cannot so explicitly be communicated by Letter.

Mr. David Gibson gave me a description of a horse lost and Supposed to be in the Chactaws dated Town of Washington January 21st 1803 I have made the necessary enquirys and am induced to believe that the horse was taken from this country by Richard Hall formerly a trader in the Six Towns who now lives near Fort St. Stephens in which country the horse I have been told was stolen Since by a Nephew of Halls & Sold in the Creek Country. Hall is possessed of property and you may Judge and inform Mr Gibson how he may recover his property if practicable. He is intirely out of the reach of the Agency but not of the Territory.

I am very respectfully Sir,
Your Obedient Servant
Signed, Silas Dinsmoor

Silas Dinsmoor Esquire
Agent to the Chactaws

Mississippi Territory
August 24th 1804

Sir, Your letter of the 6th Instant enclosing one to

David Gibson was received; — with respect to the Stray Horses you mention I suppose it would be proper & most for the Interest of the owners, to sell them at public Sale for cash, either in Natchez, or at the Court House in Washington County, previously advertiseing them a reasonable time; Say ten days, and after paying out of the proceeds of the Sales all reasonable & Just Charges to deposit the overplus with the Treasurer of the Territory for the benefit of the owners, — care must be taken to make out and deposit with the Money a Statement of the expences on each Horse & the price he sells for, in order to a fair Settlement with the Several Individual Owners. —

You Mention a Wish to visit the City of Washington, if you can obtain my permission, — I do not know that I am authorised to grant such permission, I have, however no objection provided your absence will occasion no injury to the Service in which you are engaged. —

I am Sir, respectfully yours &c

(Signed) Cato West. —

Lieutenant Josiah Taylor
Assistant Military agent
New Orleans.

Mississippi Territory,
November 10th 1804.

Sir.

Mr Edmund Wooldridge of Natchez will forward to you 360 hoes, 143 axes 10 Sprouting hoes and 1500 lbs bar iron the property of the United States intended

75 intended for the use of the Chactaws, which articles I take the liberty to request you to have conveyed as near to the residence of the agent for that nation as may be practicable, subject to his order, and the expenses arising thereon you will please charge to the United States, and of course draw on the Secretary of War for the amount.

I am Sir Respectfully
Yours &c
Signed Cato West

War Department
November 1st 1804.

Sir

Your favor of the 5th of July last was received at the office during my absence on a visit to the Northward, which has prevented my returning an earlier answer thereto — I should not have expected the U S. would have been called on, to keep arms in repair furnished for the use of the Militia, and I presume you will on further reflection deem it proper to present the bills for cleaning and repairing the arms referred to in your letter, to the Government of the Mississippi Territory for payment, rather than to the U S.

I am Respectfully
Your Obt Servt
H. Dearborn

NB. Entered here by mistake

Cato West. Esqr

Silas Dinsmore Esq.
agent to the Chactaws

Near Greenville December 7. 1804

Sir John Kincaid an Indian Trader in the Chactaws, has represented to me that he was lately fined by you five hundred dollars for selling Jaffia to an Indian; which Jaffia was not delivered; and requests that the said fine may be remitted. I am at a great loss to conceive your legal ground in this decision; being totally uninformed of any law authorizing an agent to assess and collect fines. I shall however suspend any proceedings in this affair for a short time, with a view to obtain fuller information from you upon the subject; therefore request you to communicate by the earliest opportunity every circumstance which may tend to throw light on, and explain the proceedings had by you in that case. Kincaid is recommended as a man of good demeanor. Now it seems to me if he is such a character, and if this is his first and only offence; which I incline to believe was more through inadvertency than design, his case must be rather a hard one, and if I understand your letter to him, you seem to be of opinion that he is an object not unworthy of relief.

I am Sir
Respectfully
Yours &c.
Signed Cato West

a Copy of the foregoing
urnal containing 8
ages transmitted to
he Secretary of State's
ice this 23 Janr. 1805

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The Honorable H. Dearborn Esq.
Secretary at War . . .

Mississippi Territory
December 10th. 1804

Sir I received your letter of the 1st ultimo in answer to my communication of the 5th. of July last, respecting the arms sent here for sale to the Militia of the Territory. — The Muskets mentioned in that communication had been used by the United States troops, and were as I am informed out of repair when received. The Rifles were new, but required attention and some expense to preserve them from injury — These Guns being the property of the U S any expense necessarily accruing on them was thought a proper charge against that Government. I shall however lay the matter before the territorial Legislature, agreeably to your opinion suggested, presuming that provision will be made accordingly.

I have the honor
respectfully to be
Sir Yours &c

Entered here by mistake

Signed Cato West

Do 7th

Silas Dinsmore Esq.
agent to the Chactaws

Mississippi Territory
January 17th. 1805.

Sir I received your favor of the 8th instant enclosing a bill of exchange for 250 dollars drawn by Nicholas

Perkins

Perkins on the territorial treasurer which I shall present for acceptance but when it can be paid is uncertain; there being now no money in the treasury.

I am happy to learn that you have been able to obtain the establishments you mention, and hope the treaty shortly to be held with the Indians for the purchase of lands will also succeed.

Foster has made no application to me respecting his mare, in your posfesion as a stray, so that I can give no particular directions now upon the subject, but suppose it would be proper for you to deliver the mare to Foster or to any other white person by his order upon satisfactory proof of the mare's being his property.

John Kincaid an Indian trader some time ago petitioned me to release a fine of 500 dollars laid on him as he says by you for selling spirituous liquors to an Indian Contrary to the regulations on that subject, but as I was at a loss to know the legal ground of your proceeding in that case, I wrote to you for information upon the subject; my letter to you at the City of Washington supposing you would be there. I should be glad if Kincaid's affair could be reconsidered and satisfactorily settled by you; but if that can't be done with propriety, you will please as soon as may be convenient to state the case fully to me.

The

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The axes, hoes and bar iron for the Chactaws has been sent to the assistant military agent in New orleans with a request that he will forward them up the Tombigby as near as possible to the place of your residence; which I have no doubt will be done. It may be well however for you to write to him for further information of the progress of those articles to the place of their destination.

I am respectfully Sir Yours &c.

Signed Cato West

To Silas Dinsmoor Esquire
Agent to the Chactaws

February 15th 1805.

Sir

No 78

Your communication of the 5th Instant, with the inclosed papers was duly recd. Since my last letter to you I have seen the Treasurer who refuses to accept in form Mr Perkins's Bill, but says he will pay the amount at any time it may be presented when there is money in the Treasury, of this I am of opinion there is no prospect in less than a year. I am now convinced that I cannot with any prospect of success effectually in the case of John Duncan, the proceedings against him being in no state to justify it. But recommend it to you to cancel the

Bond taken for the forfeiture; and if you believe it necessary, sue the orignal Bond in suit, or you may discharge him altogether if you should think it right to do so— This Sam of opinion you can do with some propriety as the case stands. ——

There being no law upon the subject of strays taken up in the nation, I am at a loss to determine on any permanent arrangement for their disposal, but am however still of opinion it would be most for the interest of the owners, as well as safe and convenient for you, to sell them at public sale in Washington county, previously advertising in the Public papers of the Territory, and by advertisement in that County about three months, and deposit in the Public Treasury the proceeds for the use and benefit of the owners, of all that may be sold, deducting reasonable charges. — And it would be necessary under this regulation to report from time to time, to the superintendant, a statement of such sales as may be made in conformity thereto.

I am very sorry to learn the situation of Mr. Pitchlyn and hope you will afford him all the protection & relief in your power. ——

Yours respectfully

Signed, Elias Heck

Sir February the 15.th 1805.

No. 72

I have rec.d from Mr. Dunmoor a Statemen of the proceedings against you in the case of selling Taffia to an Indian, and find that affair in no state that will Justify any interference of mine for your relief, Mr. Dunmoor can put your first bond in suit against you, or cancel the last & discharge you altogether, as he may think proper, I am in hopes he will do the latter, and also restore your licence. — The Traders will doubtless be Convinced of the necessity of conforming strictly to the regulations adopted by the Government for the Indian Country, as they may expect all violations will be xxxxxx prosecuted with rigor. —

I am Sir yours &c

(Signed) [signature]

To John Kincaide
Chactaw Nation

To Joseph Chambers Esqure March the 9.th 1805.—

No. 73

Sir, — I have been inform'd by the Members of the Legislature from Washington County, that

that the Public store in that county is very injurious to the Inhabitants thereof, owing to the great number of Indians resorting to it, who destroy the stock of, and are otherways troublesome to the People. ___ I would therefore thank you to inform me early after the rec.t of this letter, whether that Establishm.t is fixed by the Gov.t where it now stands, and what would be the probable inconvenience of its removal into the Indian Country ___ I should suppose the residence of the Agent, or perhaps some eligible spot up the river would be more suitable than the place where the store now is, at any event I hope you will do all in your power, consistent with the direction & interest of the Gov.t to relieve the Inhabitants from the injurious consequences of the Indians coming amongst them.

I am Sir respectfully yours &c

Signed, Alex.r McKee

To Silas Dinsmoor Esq.r
Agent to the Chactaws

March the 9.th 1805.

Sir

It has been represented to me by Messr.s Colbert and Gr.d Gross, members of

the Legislature from Washington County that the measure you have taken with the Claimants and occupants of the Lands on the Lift bank of the Tombigby river is very distressing to them— Unless you have rec.d express & positive instructions from the Gov.r of the U.S. relative to those Lands, and as I conceive no injury can arise to the Indians on that account, I should suppose it would be right to leave the claimants in the quiet possession and use of the Lands in question until the Gov.r shall decide on the premises, provided the Indians are satisfied and quiet, and I trust you will use your best endeavors to make them so, should they be otherwise inclined. I would further observe that I hope, as the season for planting has arrived you will therefore instantly proceed to give the earliest possible notice to those concerned that they may proceed to plant and cultivate as usual. — I am Sir respectfully Your Ob.t —

Signed, Peter Pitchlynn,

July the 3d. 1805

The foregoing Journal from page 76 was this day transmited to the office of the Secritary of State, by Wm. Hoyt Se. M. T.

Mississippi Territory

In conseqence of an application
176 made to me by Limon Frazier
a Chactaw half breed who stats
himself to be one of the heirs of
Alexander Frazier dec. against
James Davenport of this Territory
stating that the said Davenport
had possessed himself of a considerable
quantity of property, consisting of skins
furs &c. belonging to the estate of
the said Alexander Frazier dec.
and

and refused to account for the same. The said Davenport has appeared before me in the presence of the complainant, and on an investigation and examination of the affair, it does not appear from the vouchers produced that the said Davenport has any of the property or estate belonging to the said Alexander Frazier on his profession; and so far as any of the same came into his profession, he has accounted for and delivered the same over to the Executors of the said Alexander Frazier dec. who

are

sible and ought to account to the
claimant for any part thereof
which he may be entitled to.

Given under my hand
at the Town of
Washington this 27th
day of October 1805.

Signed Robert Williams.

87.

No. 76.

Washington ct. T.
March 11. 1806.

Sir

Mr Thomas M. Green of this Territory states that a negro of his by the name of Charley runaway in September or October 1803 and was taken up in Robertson County State of Tennessee the 21st of July 1804, where he remained until March 1805, at which time Robert Childress took him on board his boat to convey him to Mr. Green, and brought him near the mouth of Bayou Pierre, where he again made his escape, and is now with one Campbell a half breed in the Chickasaws. The negro was

pinched

purchased by M. Green from Thomas B. and Robert Scott of Jessamine County State of Kentucky. She is described as being "a well made black fellow, about 24. years of age, five feet eight or nine inches high, stoops a little in his shoulders and has a soft squeaking voice."—

You will be pleased to make such enquiries as may lead to the recovery of M. Green's property, and communicate the result.

I am respectfully

Y. Ob. Servt.

Thos. P. Williams.

Sam. Mitchell
U. S. Agent
to the Chickasaws

No. 77

Washington. N.Y. March 19th 1811

Sir

Previous to Mr Bowman's
departure for the City of Washington
he advised me of his having obtained
permission from the Secretary
of War to establish a Land and
Ferry, where the Road from this
place to the County of Washington
crosses the Pearl River, and requested
I would let it. Accordingly
I did so, to Mr James Gallin, within
a few days past, a man by the
name of Littleton, whom Colo
was about to place there in Virtue
of said Contract with me, has
made information to me that
there are some Indians at the
place, and refuses to permit
him to settle. I wish you
to direct enquiry of the Chiefs
of the Nation, as to the cause

of this embarrassment, and assist
on their having it removed. —
Please inform me the
result of your enquiry, and whether
they will remove the obstacle —

I am Sir
Your obt Servt
Wm. John Pitkin Lyn'd Robert Williams
Inspector of the
Northern agency.

From the Governor to James Cutler

Washington Ter. T. March 21. 1806

Sir,

Your letter of the 27th ult.
I found at this place on my arrival
from New Orleans; since which
this is the first mail, or opportunity,
which has offered to give you
an answer.

Your

your request to establish a trading store at or near the Chaudiere line on the Tombigbee river will meet with my approbation provided it shall not be thought to intrude with the establishment of that kind by the United States — to ascertain which I wish the opinion of Mr Pensmeor the agent which you can obtain and make known to me: — As to retailing spirituous liquors to the Indians, it will be inadmissible under any regulations whatever. I am sensible of the correctness of your remarks as to the inconveniences the inhabitants labour under in consequence of their being furnished with

with this article at Mobille &c.
but we cannot meet the evil by affording
additional means, and that too
by contravening the laws of the
United States.

I am with respect
Yrs
signed Robert Williams

James Fallen esqr.

93.

From the Governor to Genl Tipton

Town of Washington April 2d 1832

Fo: 79

Sir

I am informed by Mr. John G. Jones who resides at the walnut-Hills, that a number of the Potawatomie Indians during some time past, have been in the habit of behaving very rudely to himself and family, the particulars of which Mr. Jones will inform you.

The object of this Order is therefore that you will please be so kind as to inform the Indians, that they must not do so again - That if they do, they will be taken and punished - That you

people are not permitted to do so
and would be punished for such
Conduct. And that you will
also inform them, that if they
Continue to ill treat the white
people and destroy their property
Measures must and will be
taken to protect their coming
at all among the white people.

It is from your known
Character and friendly disposition
as well as your desire to Continue
and Cultivate a good understanding
between us and the Indians, that
I have made this Request to you
during and in which I have much
confidence — I am &c

Lyn. 9 Brit Militia
Jerse Trumbull.

95.

From the Governor to William Lewis Esq.

Washington April 2d 1806

Sir The conduct of some

No. 80 Choctaw Indians lately in the

Neighbourhood of the Walnut Hills,

particularly towards Mr Jones and

those under his superintendance

is such as must not be born with.

I have therefore to request

that you will, on complaint

of any Person or Outrage having

been committed by a similar

kind within your County, by

any Indian or Indians, upon your

warrant to apprehend them,

and proceed in like manner

thereon as if such Person or

Outrage had been committed

by

by a Citizen or Citizens of this Country
And do in case the civil authority
& Civil Force, that you
will attach a sufficient Number
of the Militia of your Company
as will be competent to Execute
such Force, and Enforce Obedience
to the Civil Authority

Yours &c

Signed Robt Williams

William Lewis Esq

97.

From the Governor
to Judge Rodney

Washington M.T.
April 5th 1854

Sir I having been made
known to me that two men by the
names of Benjamin Matteer and
William Gilchrist, Settlers and
Residents of Claiborne County
within this Territory, have com-
=mitted the Forcible Entry & Det-
=ainer of the Choctaw Nation of Indians, by
Treaty, and from them brought
away with force, some Negroes
which were owned by and
in the peaceable possession
of the widow of Watts Friend
in violation of the laws of the
United States. I have, therefore
to request that you will

grand jury warrant Directed to the Sheriff of Calcasieu County for the purpose of apprehending the offenders.

In order that you may be fully informed of the contents of the information I am directed to lay before you as to the facts alluded to, I herewith inclose you Mr. Mitchell's letter, with its inclosures on the subject.

I am with Respect

Your Obt Servt

Geo. Sidney

99.

From the Secretary of War to Secretary of War

Dr. J. M.

To Cash this day drawn on you at ten days Sight in favor of John Henderson & Nathy for the sum of one hundred and seventy four Dollars, which sum has been expended by me as Superintendant of Indians affairs for and in behalf of the United States, from the first day of October last to the thirty first day of March instant.

The Vouchers shewing this expenditure are herewith inclosed by which you will observe one hundred and fifty dollars of this sum has been

interpreter
paid to David Bunch, who Served
had been heretofore employed at
the Rate of three hundred Dollars
a year, as Interpreter to the Choctaw
Tribe of Indians from the Govern-
ment Superintendency here, & Should be
employed again at the same Rate. —
Their expenditures became
Necessarily heavy, which it was
practicable (which it is not under
existing laws) to keep the Indians
from Going into the Country
at all, and perhaps it would
not be good Policy to forbid the
friendly Visits of their principal
Men and Chiefs: especially under
the present Aspect of affairs in this Country
for the last Six Months, and
during which time the agent Mr.
Hargrove has been absent from
the Nation on Leave.
Boyd. Boyd Contains
Henry Rearborn
Sec'y of War —

101.

Washington, M. T. July 16th 1856.

Sir

No 68. At sight you will please pay Daniel Barry or order the sum of twenty-four dollars the amount of his last quarterage as Interpreter near the Superintendency ending the last day of June last. Duplicate of the same date and tenor will be given of which last one will be paid.

The Hon. Lee Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War.

} Yr. Ob. Servt.
Coorly Allen.

The foregoing Journal this day transmitted to the Secretary of State - July 15th. 1856

Coorly Allen
Sec. of Nebr. Territory -

To the Agent of the Chickasaw nation — or in absence or inability to attend — To Samy Allen Esq. residing near the Agency.

Sir,

You are hereby directed to take the depositions of Hardy Perry, Thomas Love, George Colbert, William Colbert, Sam Colbert, Samy Allen and others, touching a case now pending in the Supreme court of this Territory, between the Widow Wolf of the Chickasaw nation, Plaintiff, and Berryman Watkins and William Gilchrist of this Territory defendants — The said widow Wolf, or her agent or friends will be properly notified hereof, that they may be present at the taking of the said depositions — and you are hereby directed to examine and cross examine the respective witnesses, that the truth & the whole truth may be fairly brought before the proper tribunal —

— should Mr. Allen have to superintend the Interrogatories he will associate one or two honest and respectable citizens with him and transmit the result, under their hands & seals, to their Honors the Judges of the said Supreme Court at this place.

Yrs. &c.

Cowles Mead

Washington, N. T. July 31st 1856.

103.

Washington May 1st 1807

Sir

I have this day drawn duplicate Bills
Vol 5 in favour of John Henderson on the Secretary of War
for two Hundred Dollars for expences incurd on Indian
affairs. — The vouchers shewing this expenditure not
being at present properly authenticated shall be forwarded
by the next Mail. —

The Indians have lately been very troublesom
within the settlements, have committed some violent
outrages on persons and property. — I have ordered
them to depart Out of the Settlements and not to come
in without having passports &c

Henry Dearborn Esq.
Secy of War

(Signed) Robert Williams

Washington April 18th 1807

Sir

Your letter of the 16th Inst. I recieved by Robt
Vol 56 M Clure, relative to the menacing conduct of some
Indians in your Neighborhood. — You mention in
your letter you intend killing the first Indian
that offers to you again any kind of insolence. —

Those people have been lately ordered to
leave the Territory and the necessary steps will be
taken to inforce this order. —

You and your neighbors will recieve the
necessary protection for violences from those or any

other person agreeable to the law of the Country.— [redacted] it will not be proper for you to exceed what is right, proper and lawfull towards those people (the Indians) or any other who misbehave; and you are Hereby requested to apply to a civil Majistrate, and inforce the law against the Indians in the same manner as you would do on a similar occasion towards Citizens of this Territory

I. I. Jones (Signed) Robert Williams

From the Governor to David Lee Esq.r

Washington May 29th 1807.

Sir

Your Letter of the 29th ult. respecting 1807
some outrages Committed by the Indians and inclosing an Affidavid of a Mr. Donoho to the same effect, I have Recd. — The steps you have already taken in Committing some of them to Prison I approve — You are Hereby Requested to put the Law in force against the Indians in the same manner you would do, against a citizen of this Territory for similar offences —

I have given orders generally for them to leave the Settlements and caused them to be informed that they will not be countenanced in Returning or coming into the Settlements without a pass[port]

from the agent or interpreter belonging to their nation. ——

I Shall send David Berry my interpreter among those Indians in your Neighbourhood, in order that they may be correctly informed of my Determination and orders, as well as the motives on which they have been predicated to wit, that the innocent and well Disposed may not suffer for and with the guilty and ill disposed. ——

You will please so far as it is in your power impress them with the propriety of Such a Regulation, — that it is intended to keep up a lasting friendship between them and the white people, which cannot be done if their bad people are suffered to come among us — That we the white cannot suffer our people to go into their country without a passport & that they must do so when they come among the whites ——

I am with Respt.

J. M.

(Signed) Robert L Williams

David Lee Esqr
Atkinson County

From the Governor to Silas Dinsmore Esq.

Jon. Washington June 20th 1807.

You have inclosed the copy of an affidavit, Relative to an outrage committed by Some Indians, belonging to the Chactaw Nation, Also the copy of an inventory Ascertaining the Amount and Value of the Articles and property Destroyed by them.

I Request you will make the Necessary Application for Satisfaction, and if they Refuse to Comply Report the Same in due time to me and that Such Steps and Such Steps May be taken as are Authorised by Law, and the existing Relations, between the United States and Such Tribe or Nation.

I am with Respect

Yr.

Signed, Robert Williams

Silas Dinsmore Esq.

Agent to the Choctaw Nation.

107.

From the Governor to David See Esqr.

No. 89

Sir

Washington Augt. 5th 1807.

Your letter dated August 28th ult.o Respecting the male conduct of some Indians in your Neighbourhood, I have Rec.d

It is not in my power nor consistent with Law, to take more energetic measures that I have already pointed out in order to have the Indians punished for any offence they may commit. — For those I take the liberty of Referring you to my letter to yourself, dated the 29th of May last — with this Request, to which I trust will not be misconstrued, I trust that the people in your Neighbourhood will so far Regard the honor of their Government, the laws of this Country, and their duty as Citizens as not to commit any act derogatory to either, but proceed and put the Laws in force against Indians who may offend in the same manner, as agt. Citizens for similar offences. —

I have directed Davd Berry the Interpreter to write on your with this letter, and explain to the Indians the contents of

this and my former Letter to you on this Subject — a few examples in Commuting some of those Indians to Jail, would I apprehend put an end to their Depredations ——

I am Sir with Respect,

Signed Robert Williams

David Lee Esqr.

From the Governor to Pucks humble.

Washington Septr 6th 1807

Below Friend, Your Letter dated the 1st of this Month, I Rec.d

You State that Your People have Lost two Horses in the Neighbourhood of Gibsons Post, and that You Suppose this Loss has been Committed by the white People ——

Our Mutual Friend Mr. Brashears who brought me this Letter can and I have this Word to Explain this matter fully to You — this is Reasons it unnecessary to write much to You on this Subject ——

09. I Informis You that the white people Shall
find the Same Justice to the Red people, that
they Claim of the Red People, for any injury
that may be Done, and that we are Brothers
and friends and wish to be Governed by the
Same Laws and Rules of Justice towards
each Other

It ought to be made appear
that the white people within this Territory
do take the horses before You Can Set up
any Claim — this is not done in the present
case. Where the white people loose horses or
other Property we must Make it appear
that the Red people Committed the injury
Before we Claim payment, therefore
Your People Aught to do the Same

When any injury is Committed by
the white people on the Red make it known
to me & I will See Justice Shall be done this
the Orders of the Great & Good man the President
of the United States, who loves all his Red brothers

his Pachshannubbee

Signed Robert Williams

From the Governor to the Chickasaw Agent.

Washington M. T.

October 3. 1807.

Sir.

Mr David Thompson complaining to me that he lost two valuable mares in the Chickasaw Nation of Indians, and that they are in the profession of some Individuals of that Nation who refuse to give them up, on any reasonable terms— I request that you will make the necessary enquiry respecting the affair and cause justice to be done agreeable to the laws of the United States and the existing relations and intercourse between the United States and the Indian Tribes.

I have the honor to be

Respectfully

yr

Thomas Wright Esqr
Agent of the Chickasaw
Nation of Indians

Signed
Robert Williams

111.

Mississippi Territory.
Town of Washington.
January 20. 1808.

Sir

Not being certain whether I answered your letter of the 5. of November in reply to mine of the 3rd of October relative to the claim of Mr Davis Thompson for two mares in the possession as (he states) of the Indians, and not finding a Copy of any letter in answer on record, therefore write you this, as through the hurry of business I may have omitted writing to you on the occasion at all.

By law if any Indian &c. come within our Territory and steal or destroy property, the Nation or Tribe to which such Indian shall belong is bound under certain regulations to make satisfaction — But I know of no law making them (in express terms) responsible for like injuries done to the persons or property of those travelling through their Country, yet by a reasonable construction and to prevent the Indians stealing and carrying off with impunity the horses and property of those who may be lawfully passing through their Country, this

provision

provision of the law ought to be extended so as to make them responsible for offences committed within their boundary, in the same manner as if within that of the United States— You will therefore conduct and Judge of Mr Thompsons claim accordingly.

Mr Thompson is very solicitous on this occasion, please inform him through me whether he must attend you again.

I am with respect

Yr

(Signed)

Robert Williams

Thomas Wright Esqr.
Chickasaw Agent.

No. 93

From the Governor to Capt. Edwd. P. Gaines.

Town of Washington,
May 19. 1807.

Sir

Your letter of the 7th instant with its inclosure respecting an affray between Mr Bates and party and some Chactaw Indians, in which one

I

of the latter was killed and another wounded came to hand this day by mail, and is the first and only information I have received on the subject except mere flying report.

Your interference on this occasion and the present and just course you have pointed out to Mr Bates and the Indians tending to prevent a further violation of the laws and to avert the spilling of innocent blood merit my entire approbation. It is cause of regret that Mr Dinsmore the agent is absent: In consequence of which I take the liberty of availing the public with your services on this occasion.

You will please use the necessary means to make known to, and satisfy the Indians that every attempt to violate their rights and property as individuals or as a nation by the whites, shall be duly regarded, the authors punished and a just and full compensation made for injuries or loses they may sustain. But in order to obtain this they must be impressed

with

with the propriety of making known to our Government the nature and extent of injuries they may have received. It will also be proper to explain to them that any attempt at retaliation previous to making a demand of us, would destroy their just claim for satisfaction and release us from the obligations our Government would otherwise be under to compensate them; besides, lead to a state of War which might prove ruinous to them and which we should very much lament.

As to our own Citizens they certainly understand their duty too well, and regard the laws more than to do any act which might produce consequences injurious to themselves and families, and thereby become chargeable themselves.

You mention that a Council is to be holden in the Nation, on this occasion, will you please attend to that event and should you not hear from me again and before it takes place, I wish you to attend and make the necessary

necessary arrangements with the Indians to pacify and keep them quiet.

You will be pleased to make known to me the measures taken by you, also forward an account of the expenses including your own so that I may provide the means of payment.

I am respectfully.

yrs

Robert Williams.

Capt. Edwd. P. Gaines
Commandant.
Fort Stoddert.

July 1. 1808.

a transcript of the foregoing Journal from page 107 to 115. was this day transmitted to the Department of State.

Tho. H. Williams

Secretary M. T.